

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Politeness

"Anyone can be polite to a king. It takes a gentleman to be polite to a beggar." – Anonymous

"Politeness and civility are the best capital ever invested in business. Large stores, gift signs, flaming advertisements, will all prove unavailing if you or your employees treat your patrons abruptly. The truth is, the more kind and liberal a man is, the more generous will be the patronage bestowed upon him." – P.T. Barnum

"In Japan, I was immensely impressed by the politeness, industrious nature and conscientiousness of the Japanese people." – J. Paul Getty

"It is wise to apply the oil of refined politeness to the mechanism of friendship." – Sidonie Gabrielle Colette

"Politeness makes one appear outwardly as they should be within." – Jean de la Bruyere

Polite means "having or showing good manners or respect for other people." (Webster) You would tend to think that such would be evident in the child of God. After all, we are supposed to be different from the world (Rom. 12:2).

There is an old metaphor that says, "You catch more flies with honey than you do vinegar." The design of the saying is to signify that people are more apt to hear what you have to say if you are polite and humble in your approach. Some well-meaning brethren need to learn that lesson.

One of the hard lessons for Christians is to realize that they are always under scrutiny. We should relate to that in the world we live in today with a camera almost always catching our every movement. Was it not Paul that noted, "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men" (2 Cor. 3:2).

But there is another aspect to politeness that is often overlooked. It does wonders for the person who is being polite. You will feel better about yourself. And as a consequence, your attitude will improve.

In this push and shove world we live in, it is amazing how Christians get caught up in acting like those around them. Holding a door for a lady, thanking the one who brings food to the table, expressing thanks to our employers – these kinds of things should be second nature to the child of God!

While the word "attitude" or "polite" may not be in the sacred text, certainly the concepts are there. In application, consider what Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

"Politeness costs little and yields much." – Mademoiselle de Lambert