

## Being Polite

I. Introduction: Polite - "Having or showing behavior that is respectful and considerate of other people" (New Oxford American Dictionary).

A. First, we have to address the fact that there are times wherein a Christian cannot be polite (**Matthew 15:12-14**).

1. There are times we have to be sharp (**Titus 1:10-14**) and/or do things that might be offensive (**Proverbs 27:5**, **Galatians 3:1**, etc.).
2. We cannot always be hospitable (**II John 1:9-11**).
3. These things are not our lesson. We just want to make sure we always remember to be balanced (**Matthew 23:23**).

B. This lesson is not picking on impolite people of the world. We know the world is full of evil (**Galatians 1:3-4** and **I John 5:19**).

1. We are in the last days (**Hebrews 1:1-2**). Since we know that; we know what to expect from the world (**II Timothy 3:1-5**; **3:13**).
2. We, who are in Christ Jesus, are supposed to stand out from the behaviors we see in the world (**Titus 2:11-14** and **I Peter 1:15**; **2:11-12**).

II. Body: We Must Be Respectful (**I Peter 2:17**) and Considerate of Others (**Romans 15:1-3**).

A. Think about some instructions that lead us to be respectful and considerate...

1. Deferring to others (**Romans 12:10**).
2. Having empathy (**Romans 12:15**).
3. In areas of authorized liberty [contextual point], follow that which edifies and makes peace (**Romans 14:19**).
4. In areas of authorized liberty [contextual point], I am to act in a non-offensive; man-pleasing manner (**I Corinthians 10:32-33**).
5. By love serve one another (**Galatians 5:13**).
6. Be kind and forbearing (**Colossians 3:12-13**).
7. Consider that people are looking to you as a pattern of how they should behave (**Titus 2:7-8**).
8. Be courteous (**I Peter 3:8**).

B. It can be taught to treat others in ways you'd want to be treated (**Matthew 7:12** and **Luke 6:31**).

1. The reason I said "can be taught" is that manners are corrupted by the world (**I Corinthians 15:33**) and therefore the standard of treating others as you would can be a bad standard for those who have been corrupted by the world.
2. So, let me emphasize strongly the point that we are to go beyond how we'd want to be treated when we esteem other better than ourselves (**Philippians 2:3-5**).

C. We should care how our behavior might affect our relationships (**Proverbs 25:17**).

1. Some people don't consider how irritating they are (**Proverbs 27:15**).
2. Are you someone that others want/should be around (i.e. **Proverbs 22:24**)?

III. Conclusion: Among Christians, be subject one to another (**Ephesians 5:21** and **I Peter 5:5**). That should equip us to be polite!