

1 Thank-You

2 Two Little Words

- Well it appears that our mothers were right?
- Learning to say “please” and “thank-you” and showing good manners are extremely important.
- Surveys reveal, people with good social skills are 85% more likely to get a good job than those with who don’t.
- What is good social skills?—showing manners and good etiquette.

3 What are Manners?

- Manners are rules and stipulations.
- They are a common set of procedures to help us adequately maneuver in the social arena without offending others.
- In fact, the word etiquette literally means “ticket” or “card” and was used by monarchs to describe a “code of conduct” that would be expected behavior in the king’s court.
- This was done to help people not to offend the King so they wouldn’t lose their heads.
- In other words, good manners and etiquette help us to give honor and respect where it is due.

4 Without Etiquette

- If people neglected etiquette, our society would be a mess.
- No one would know how to show proper consideration for others.
- We would be offending those we should be honoring and creating strife with those who have the power and position to help us.
- So in other words, if we lack good manners and etiquette, we are hurting ourselves because people don’t like to associate with those who don’t show proper consideration for others.

5 Proper Etiquette

- Cell Phone Etiquette
- Table (Eating) Etiquette
- Work Etiquette
- Hospitality Etiquette
- Military Etiquette
- Home Etiquette
- School Etiquette
- Church Etiquette

6 Books on Manners and Etiquette

7 Learning Manners

8 Etiquette in the Bible

- In the New Testament, we have an apostle who seemed almost obsessed with manners for he was always giving thanks to people.

- That person was the Apostle Paul for he always addressed his churches with gratitude and thanksgiving.

- Well . . . all except for one.

9 The Galatians

- By the way, why did the Galatians cause the Apostle Paul so much trouble?

- They lacked good manners?

- They sought to merit God's grace through good works?

- As Gentile believers they were influenced by Judaizers (Jewish Believers) to merit God's grace by observing the Mosaic Law and follow Jewish customs?

- Worshipped idols.

10 Showing Gratitude

- We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Th 1:2-3 NIV)

- And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (1 Th 2:13 NIV)

- How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. (1 Th 3:9-10 NIV)

11 Showing Gratitude

- According to commentator Beverly Roberts Gaventa, "There is more thanksgiving in 1st Thessalonians than interpreters know how to handle."

- And Paul had reason to be proud of the Thessalonians.

- The church was birthed in a very hostile environment where Paul and Silas were even run out of town.

- Yet, the church grew and grew.

- You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. (1 Th 1:6-7 NIV)

12 Giving Thanks to God

- It should be noted that Paul's expressions of thanks are addressed not directly to the Thessalonians themselves, but to God on their behalf.

- We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. (1 Th 1:2 NIV)

- And we also thank God continually . . . (1 Th 2:13 NIV)

- How can we thank God enough for you . . . (1 Th 3:9 NIV)

- If you said to your spouse, "I thank God for you," do you think they would be offended?

- If I said, “I thank God that I’m pastoring Ekklesia,” do you think people would be offended?

13 Faith, Hope, & Love

- We should also note that Paul is not saying he’s thankful that the Thessalonians are nice people; he’s much more specific.
- He is thankful for their “work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope.”
- They abound in the three greatest virtues of the Christian faith.
 - The way they act toward one another.
 - The way in which they face the troubles of life.
 - The way in which their attitude about how things will come out in the end is clear to see.
- For this church, Christianity is not a static belief system, but a dynamic force that permeates all they say and do. Wow!

14 Motivates

- Letting someone know you’re thankful for something has another effect as well.
- It encourages the person to continue in that way and direction.
- That is why all good managers and individuals with good people skills lavish praise on people who are doing a good job.
- They want to encourage people to keep on doing good.
- So when Paul praises the Thessalonians; he wants them to keep on living their faith wholeheartedly.

15 “I-It & I-Thou”

- The Jewish philosopher/theologian, Martin Buber, wrote a book in which he explained that our human interactions are of two kinds.
- The “I-it” relationship looks at people as objects.
- The “I-thou” relationship looks at people as someone instead of something.
- So then, when we sincerely thank a person it forces us to see that person as someone instead of something.

16 John Kralik

- In 2008, John Kralik took off for the mountains in a quest to find inner peace.
- On that walk, he became aware of an inner voice saying, “Until you learn to be grateful for the things you have, you will not receive the things you want.”
- So he started writing “Thank-you” notes and it changed his life.

17 Summary

- We can help our church and make it more vital by . . .
 - Thanking God for the faith, hope, and love of our fellow brothers and sisters, and by thanking them directly as well.
- We can help our family, friends and acquaintances by thanking them.

- And we can become better people—and better Christians ourselves—by taking the time to express our gratitude.

18 The Cup of Thanksgiving