

# *The Fundamentals of Good Manners*

These five fundamentals should set you in good stead. Good manners are extended to everybody, regardless of whether you know them, on which side of town they live, or whether they tithed.

**Be Humble:** Others first, yourself last. Self-denial and deference to others ("After you") are the cornerstone of good manners, acting selfish or uppity is not.

**Be Courteous:** Remember the Golden Rule. Go out of your way to be helpful and kind to everyone you encounter.

**Behave Yourself:** Don't be uncouth, rude, brash, loud, coarse, or cause a commotion in public. Only trashy types do such things.....and obviously this is because they weren't raised to know better.

**Be Friendly:** Put your friendliest foot forward, whether you've been properly introduced or don't know the person from a hole in the ground. Be sociable and neighborly, just like you learned in Sunday School ("Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself").

**Be Modest:** Never be highfalutin'. Practice modesty in all situations.

Say "please" without fail. Please, always say "please" when you make a request, no matter how trivial or important.

Always ask, never tell. The only way to make a request is to ask for it, directives are much too surly. "Would you please carry me up the road a piece?" is correct.

Say "Thank you" without fail. Upon being granted your request--be it a personal favor or impersonal transaction--always look the other party in the eye, give them a pleasing smile, and cheerily say, "Thank you". To show them you're really grateful, dress it up with "Thank you kindly," "Thanks a whole lot," "Appreciate it". If your request is denied, say "Well, thank you anyway." Using your best turn-the-other-cheek manner.

Say "ma'am" and "sir" without fail. If any adult your senior addresses you (or vice versa), automatically attach the appropriate title to your response ("Yes ma'am, "I reckon so, Sir", "Pardon me ma'am"). Neglecting this rule is apt to be interpreted as arrogance or insolence or just plain bad upbringing.

Always refer to those of the female gender as Ladies. The descriptive woman is usually reserved. If you are a gentleman, then treat all ladies with courtliness, deference, and respect you'd accord members of the royal family.

Hold the door open for all members of the fairer sex, regardless of their social station.

Stand when a lady enters or leaves a room.

Walk on the street side of a side-walk, when accompanying a lady.

Order for both of you when at a restaurant.

Always call his mother "Mamma" or "Mrs. -----"-never by her first name, no matter what his age.

"Good manners do not cost you anything to exercise, but the lack of them may cost you dearly further down the road".

"Treat all ladies as ladies, no matter what you have heard and continue to do so until she proves to you that she is not a lady".

"A man's word is his bond and that you come into this world with only your name and will leave this world the same and how you are remembered is how you kept the honor of your name".

Morals and Manners are never out of style and are a prerequisite of all Southern Ladies and Gentlemen!