

=THE CHRISTIAN'S BEHAVIOR=

Lesson 15

Review and Demonstration Lesson 3

AIM: to further teach my pupils in matters of courtesies toward people with whom they come in contact.

POINT OF CONTACT: Think what happens when a car travels on a dirt road that has become soft in the rain. If the car gets through, ruts are made in the road, are they not? The next person who drives down that road, and the next and the next, will find the going much easier if they guide their cars into those ruts.

INTRODUCTION: Manners and courtesies are not natural with anybody; everyone has to work on having them become habit. Behavior habits are easily followed; however, when new or neglected behavior patterns should be followed, conscious effort and thought have to be given to cultivating them. Habit sometimes has to be reviewed by the Christian to see whether he is practicing consideration of other people's comfort. In our lesson for this week, we are once again reviewing some of these desired behavior patterns.

I. HOW SHOULD INTRODUCTIONS BE MADE AND ACKNOWLEDGED.

1. Making introductions when all parties are standing.
 - 1) Say both parties' complete names clearly.
 - 2) Tell first the elder person or the best friend or the close family member or the girl or the lady the name of the other person. Give a brief statement about him.
 - 3) Tell the second person the first person's name. Give a brief statement of information about him.
2. Making introductions when some persons are seated. (The above principles are remembered with these additions:)
 - 1) If a younger person is being introduced to an elder, the younger person stands from the time that the elder person enters the room until the time that the elder person sits.
 - 2) If a person of lesser rank is sitting and is about to be introduced to a person of superior position the person of lesser rank stands throughout the introduction and until the superior person sits. (If the superior person has been sitting, then at the end of the introduction the other sits.)
 - 3) If a man or a boy is introduced to a lady, the man or boy stands until the introduction is completed and until the lady sits. (If the lady has been sitting, the man or boy can sit at the close of the introduction.)
 - 4) If a lady is introduced to an elderly man or to a person of superior rank, she will remain on her feet also.
3. Acknowledging an introduction.
 - 1) Listen to the other person's name. Give the other person a chance to hear your name.
 - 2) Say, "How do you do?" or "I'm happy to meet you" or some such appropriate greeting. Remember to keep the greeting friendly and sincere—not too sugary.
 - 3) Shake hands, if you are one of two boys or two men meeting each other.
 - 4) You may or may not shake hands if you are being introduced to a member of the opposite sex. The lady does not extend her hand first; the man does. When the man extends his hand, the lady shakes hands with him. The handshake should be firm, not prolonged, and it should be accompanied with a friendly smile and a direct gaze into the eyes of the other person. Do not look a person up and down.
 - 5) You may or may not shake hands if you are one of two ladies being introduced to each other. The handshake should be firm, not prolonged, and accompanied with a friendly smile and a direct gaze into the eyes of the other person. Do not look a person up and down.
 - 6) Converse briefly following the introduction, if there is time. The conversation should be friendly, about subjects of mutual interest, and without either party talking too much.
4. Demonstrating some introductions.
 - 1) Introduce two people of nearly equal age and position.

MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE: (To closest friend:) Jim, I would like you to meet Sam Brown. Sam is in my chemistry class. Sam, this is Jim Smith. Jim is my next-door neighbor.

JIM: (Putting out your hand to shake hands.) How do you do, Sam? I hear that there are some pretty wild times in that chemistry class.

SAM: (Shaking hands and looking Jim in the eye.) How do you do, Jim? Oh, yes, we have some interesting experiments. You are Bill's next-door neighbor? Bill's neighborhood must be a friendly place in which to live.

2) Introduce a person of superior rank to a friend.

MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE: Brother Schaap, this is one of my best friends, Ted Oliver. Ted and I grew up together in our neighborhood. Ted, this is my pastor, Pastor Schaap.

PASTOR HYLES: How do you do, Ted? It's nice to have you here today.

TED: How do you do, Pastor Schaap? I'm enjoying my visit.

PASTOR HYLES: Come again, Ted.

TED: Thank you, sir.

3) Introduce an acquaintance with whom you are sitting to another acquaintance—a girl. (You and your acquaintance are boys. You and your acquaintance are talking. The girl walks in. Both boys stand up.)

FRED: Hello, Betty. I would like to have you meet Tony Palmer, who has come to visit us today. Tony, this is Betty Fair. Betty has attended this Sunday school as long as I have been here.

BETTY: How do you do, Tony? Fred has said that he was planning to bring his friend with him. We're glad you're here today.

TONY: How do you do, Betty? You have a nice church; I'm glad I came.

II. HOW SHOULD A GREETING BE MADE TO AN ACQUAINTANCE?

1. Recalling some principles.

- 1) Be genuinely friendly toward others.
- 2) Be restrained in greeting. Do not be overpowering. Do not slap an acquaintance on the back. Do not shout across the room to him.
- 3) Men, shake hands with men, looking them in the eye, giving a firm handshake.
- 4) Women, sometimes shake hands with each other; look each other in the eye giving a friendly greeting.
- 5) Women, shake hands with men, only if the man puts out his hand first.
- 6) Be sure to call acquaintances by their names.
- 7) Be careful not to interrupt a conversation. When passing an acquaintance who is already engaged in conversation, you can smile a greeting if the acquaintance happens to look in your direction.

2. Demonstrating some greetings.

1) Recognize someone across the room.

FIRST PERSON: (Sees someone he recognizes across the room.)

SECOND PERSON: (Recognizes the first person.)

FIRST PERSON: (If he is a man, he lifts his hand in a salute-like wave with a smile on his face. If she is a lady, she waves with a little wave of the hand.)

SECOND PERSON: (Waves back. If he is a man, he will smile and give a little salute. If she is a lady, she will smile and wave a little wave.)

2) Come face-to-face with an acquaintance who is of the same age and of the same rank as each other. (There is no opportunity for extended conversation.)

FIRST PERSON: Hello, Bill. (Extends his hand for shaking hands.) How are you?

SECOND PERSON: (Shake hands with Bill.) Hi, Ned. Fine, thank you. How are you?

FIRST PERSON: Good, thank you.

3) Come face-to-face with an acquaintance who is of superior rank—a teacher, the pastor, a supervisor, etc. (There is not opportunity for extended conversation.)

FIRST PERSON: Good morning, Mr. Neal.

SECOND PERSON: Good morning, Ted.

4) Meet someone of the opposite sex.

THE LADY: (Waits until the man speaks.)

THE MAN: Hello, Jane. (May or may not extend his hand.)

THE LADY: Good morning, Fred. (Shakes hands briefly with him if he extends his hand.)

III. HOW SHOULD CONVERSATION WITH AN ACQUAINTANCE BE CONDUCTED?

1. Recalling some principles.

- 1) Open the conversation with a statement or a question that would be of interest to the other party.
- 2) Be interested in the other person's views and narrative. Listen.
- 3) Draw out his views.
- 4) Contribute something to the subject which is being discussed Do not tell all you know; do not monopolize the conversation.
- 5) Be careful not to interrupt a conversation that is already in progress If you need to talk with someone who is already talking with someone else, stay a little distance from that person until the conversation has ended.

2. Demonstrating some conversations.

- 1) Two young men engage in conversation. (After the greeting.)

FIRST MAN: It's been a long time since I saw you last. How's the old neighborhood—still playing a lot of basketball?

SECOND YOUNG MAN: We're not playing as much as we were. Several of the fellows have jobs after school, and we don't get a chance to play as we used to. I have a job too.

FIRST YOUNG MAN: You do? I hope that it's something you like.

SECOND YOUNG MAN: It sure is—I'm caddying at the golf course. I just started yesterday.

FIRST YOUNG MAN: That sounds great. Do you think that you'll get to see any of the "pros" play?

SECOND YOUNG MAN: I sure hope so. What are you doing now? Do you live in the same place where you moved when you left our neighborhood?

FIRST YOUNG MAN: Yes, we do. You'll have to come to spend some time catching up on all the news. What are you doing this coming Saturday night? Can you go to the youth activity with me? Our church's young people still have weekly youth activities.

SECOND YOUNG MAN: I'd sure like to. I'll call you as soon as I get home and check the family schedule. It was nice seeing you.

FIRST YOUNG MAN: It was good to see you too. I'm going home now too, so I'll be expecting your call. Good-bye.

- 2) One person waits for a conversation to end in order to talk with someone.

FIRST TWO PEOPLE: (Talk with each other.)

THIRD PERSON: (Come up, then notice that the person with whom you want to talk is talking with someone else. Stand back out of earshot, not staring at the conversing people.)

FIRST TWO PARTIES: (End your conversation. Turn to walk away from each other.)

THIRD PERSON: (Proceed toward the person with whom you want to talk.) Hello, Betty.

BETTY: Hello, Peggy.

THIRD PARTY: There is something that I would like to talk over with you.

BETTY AND THIRD PARTY: (Stand together, talking.)

IV. WHAT ARE SOME OTHER CHRISTIAN COURTESIES?

1. Recall some principles.

- 1) We should prefer others—consider others' comforts and their priorities before ours.
- 2) Boys and men do what they can to help girls and ladies. Hold doors open for them, open car doors for them, carry packages for them, etc.
- 3) Boys and men remove their hats when they enter homes, church buildings, their offices, etc.
- 4) For two ladies or two men or two boys where there is only one place to sit The younger or the one of inferior rank stands. If the younger or the one of inferior rank is not well, the older or the superior in rank may insist that he or she sit. If the two are on equal plane, one can insist that the other sit; the one who sits graciously accepts with thanks.

- 5) Two ladies or two men or two boys come to the door at the same time. The younger or the one of inferior rank opens the door. If the two are on equal plane, the one who gets to the door first may either open the door and stand back for the other to walk through, or he or she may open the door, go through the doorway, and hold the door for the other to follow.
2. Some of the above situations may be chosen for demonstration.

CONCLUSION: Loving consideration of each other is definitely a Christian trait. Jesus said that by loving one another Christians show their love for Him. Our consideration and affection for each other are shown by our courtesies toward each other. Jesus' love for everyone can be shown through us as we are mannerly and courteous to everyone whom we meet.