

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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American Manners on the Decline

The above title is taken from the Times Record News Paper dated Saturday, October 15, 2005. The article was a report on a recent Associated Press-Ipsos poll over rude behavior. One thousand and one adults were polled over the question of whether rudeness has gained a stronghold in America. “Nearly 70 percent questioned said that people are ruder than they were 20 or 30 years ago... A whopping 93 percent in the AP-Ipsos poll faulted parents for failing to teach their children.” Other reasons sited for the increase level of rudeness in America was television. “Hollywood often glorifies crude behavior.” Still others believe that the blame is to be placed on “communication gadgets and a demand for instant gratification strain common courtesies to the breaking point... young adults who have known nothing but the conveniences of computers and cell phones, devices that take them away from face-to-face encounters.” The AP survey went on to show that “13 percent of those polled admitted to making an obscene gesture while driving; 8 percent said that they had used their cell phones in a loud or annoying manner around others. But 37 percent in the survey of 1,001 adults questioned Aug. 22-23 said they had used a swear word in public.”

Where do Christians fit into these statistics? Are we rude to those of the world? Are we rude to other fellow Christians? Do we respect positions of authority? Do we take the time to teach our children respect, honor, and politeness? Unfortunately, many Christians have become downright rude. The apostle Paul writes, “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you*” (Eph. 4:32). The responsibility of teaching young people public manners lies squarely on parents (Eph. 6:1ff). Parents who are too busy to teach their kids manners generally will not spend time teaching them many spiritual principles. Computer devices and television programs have become in house baby sitters for many of today’s parents. Many children who have been reared by

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Joe and Missy Cronin will be taking **Madeline** to Dallas Monday to see a neurologist. Madeline has been diagnosed with auditory nueroma which is very rare in children (basically a benign tumor in the brain).

Bible Basics Study:

Our lengthy series of sermons over Bible Basics is now complete. There are booklets in the foyer of the 30 sermon study.

Website Update:

Be sure and check our website from time to time for new material. We have recently uploaded the notes over the book of Matthew.

Traveling:

Due to the holiday season there are several of our members traveling out of town. Please pray for their safety and return.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

television and computer games have unformed vast empty spaces in their mind when it comes to knowing how to handle a moment of being polite or rude. When the elderly or a woman approaches a door and no one offers to open it for them... when a mother with her hands full drops things on the floor and a group of young men stare at her... when an older gentlemen tells a young man "good morning, how are you doing" and the young man just walks away... something is not right.

The apostle Peter gave an apostolic command regarding our treatment of each other when he said, "*Honor all men, Love the brother-hood. Fear God. Honor the king*" (I Pet. 2:17). We all need to pause during our busy schedules. We need take note of the fact that there are other living people around us. These other people have things that make them happy and sad. We are not the only family on the earth. We are not the only ones who have needs. Parents need to teach their children the value of the human race. Until I place the appropriate value on the lives of others I will always be offended at others words and actions. I will always believe that I am being wronged. I will always believe that people should get out of my way. I will always believe that I should be served first... and the list goes on because my world is about me and my immediate family.

During this busy holiday season please remember who you are as a Christian. The apostle Paul said, "*Walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love...*" (Eph. 4:1-2). You and I (Christians) were bought at the price of Christ blood on the cross. I'm thankful that Jesus didn't have the attitude that says I'm more important than every one else. The apostle Paul, writing of the humble life of Christ, admonished the Philippian Christians to, "*Do nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each count the other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others*" (Phil. 2:2-3). Romans 14 is the "think about others" chapter in the Bible. Paul concludes saying, "*So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another*" (Rom. 14:19).

So, the next time you are sitting in heavy traffic, standing in a line at the store, waiting for a service man to fix your tires or vehicle just remember that there are other people that would like to get moving too. You are no more special than they are. Patiently wait your turn and all will be well.

John C. Robertson

Difficult Passages in the Bible

Introduction:

There are passages in our Bibles that are somewhat difficult to interpret yet not impossible to understand. The apostle Peter wrote, *“Our beloved Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction”* (II Pet. 3:15-16). A grave mistake made by some disciples of Christ is the conclusion that a passage simply cannot be understood. While all parameters of a given passage may not be totally understood God does give us enough information to enable us to salvation. Those who believe otherwise are hopelessly doomed to being *“children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind or doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error”* (Eph. 4:14). The lesson this morning will thereby take into consideration a few “difficult text” in the Bible.

I. Bible Interpretation:

- A. Approach a study of God with optimism in interpretation (Jn. 8:32).
- B. Be aware that God will never seek to confuse you (I Cor. 14:33).
- C. Consider Context of any given passage.
- D. Consider cross references (i.e., we cannot interpret in such a way that would cause one verse to contradict or militate against another).
- E. Note that the passage may not be designed for the reader to know all parameters of the text (Deut. 29:29).

II. Peter’s First Gospel Sermon (Acts 2):

III. Paul’s Vision to the Corinthians (II Corinthians 12:1-10):

IV. Peter’s illustration of Baptism (I Pet. 3:13-22):

Conclusion:

This study was designed to help us all have a more positive approach to Bible study. We can know truth. Difficult Bible passages; however, will always remain difficult if I don’t seek to understand them. Let me suggest a few things that will help us avoid misunderstanding and or living content with not knowing the meaning of certain passages in the Bible. First, identify the passage of confusion. Secondly, read the context that the verse is found in. Thirdly, dissect each word within the verses of question. Fourthly, consider the context again with the meanings of the words before you. Consider the Lord’s teaching on the subject at other verses in the Bible (i.e., cross references). Base your conclusion upon reason that does not contradict other doctrines of God’s word.