



Kindness and Courtesy

By Charles Permaul

As we look at this subject, may we have the grace to subdue hereditary and cultivated tendencies, practice the true kindness and courtesy that comes from the heart, and allow these graces to become part of our daily living.

KINDNESS AND COURTESY

To be kind is to be caring, sympathetic, gentle, thoughtful, compassionate, considerate, solicitous, and helpful. To be courteous is to be polite, gracious, well-mannered, considerate, refined, polished. Courtesy is an example and manifestation of kindness.

The Bible states it simply, “Be kind one to another...” (Eph. 4:32); “...Be courteous” (1 Peter 3:8). These instructions are based on one word—love. “As I have loved you ...love one another” (John 13:34). And the Spirit of Prophecy says: “Be polite to God and to one another.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 315: 4.

OUR GREAT EXEMPLAR

“...Rend your heart...and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness...” Joel 2:13.

“What Christ was on this earth, the Christian worker should strive to be. He is our example, not only in His spotless purity, but also in His patience, gentleness, and winsomeness of disposition. His life is an illustration of true courtesy. He had ever a kind look and a word of comfort for the needy and the oppressed. His presence brought a purer atmosphere into the home. His life was a leaven working amid the elements of society. Pure and undefiled, He walked among the thoughtless, the rude, the incautious; among unjust publicans, unrighteous Samaritans, heathen soldiers, rough peasants, and the mixed multitude...”—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 73: 1.

“Some with whom you are brought in contact may be rough and uncourteous, but do not, because of this, be less

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Having Our Conversation in Heaven

Excerpt from a Sermon by Ellen G. White in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 24, 1886

1 Peter 1:13-16. The apostle Peter here gives instruction for believers to gird up the loins of their minds. We are to have special care over the thoughts of the mind. We are not to allow our minds to be diverted and allured by different things, because there is something more important for us. If we would allow the mind to take its natural turn, it might dwell upon unimportant things and we receive no benefit thereby.

Here is presented before us the one great event—the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, when the graves are to be opened and the dead be raised, and we are to be changed. This event should fill our mind and crowd out everything else. We want to make the most of the privileges and opportunities we have to prepare for the future immortal life.

The truth of God has taken us out of the quarry of the world to fit us up for the heavenly temple of God. We may look upon one another and think, “There is a great work to be done for that brother and for that sister,” but we may not take into consideration the work that is to be done for ourselves. And if Satan can get in among the people [and produce] a spirit of criticism, then he is satisfied, for a root of bitterness springs up in these [members] wherewith he will be satisfied. We are not all of the same character, but we are brought together in church capacity and we count ourselves as children of God, and we talk of having a home in the city of God.

Our faith is that if we perfect a Christian character we shall be numbered as the family of God in the mansions that He has gone to prepare for us. Now, our heavenly father brings us together in church capacity that we may gain in knowledge and be fitting up for the community of heaven. “Well,” some may say, “All I want is that everyone should see eye to eye. But there are those who want everyone to see just as they do. They do not consider that they have traits of character that must be changed. Then, what is the work before us in order to be ready to be among those who are waiting for their Lord to come in the clouds of heaven? It is for us to be in a position of humility before God. “Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

The Lord has not placed before one individual the trade of becoming a church tinker, but we want individually to feel that we have a responsibility before God to be a blessing to everyone with whom we associate. And we are to consider that every brother and sister is the purchase of the blood of Christ. Here we are, living stones out of the quarry, and we are to be chiseled and fitted for the New Jerusalem. Do not let

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courteous yourself.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 122: 3.

Because we are in union with Christ, because we love Him as He loves us, we must influence the unkind and discourteous to be Christ-like in their behavior.

COURTESY DEFINED

“The essence of true politeness is consideration for others. The essential, enduring education is that which broadens the sympathies and encourages universal kindness. That so-called culture, which does not make a youth deferential toward his parents, appreciative of their excellences, forbearing toward their defects, and helpful to their necessities; which does not make him considerate and tender, generous and helpful toward the young, the old, and the unfortunate, and courteous toward all is a failure.

“Christian courtesy is the golden clasp which unites the members of the family in bonds of love, becoming closer and stronger every day.”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 423: 1, 2.

“Real refinement of thought and manner is better learned in the school of the divine Teacher than by any observance of set rules. His love pervading the heart gives the character those refining touches that fashion in the semblance of His own. This education imparts a heaven-born dignity and sense of propriety. It gives a sweetness of disposition and a gentleness of manner than can never be equaled by the superficial polish of fashionable society.

“The Bible enjoins courtesy, and it presents many illustrations of the unselfish spirit, the gentle grace, the winsome temper, that characterize true politeness. These are but reflections of the character of Christ. All the real tenderness and courtesy in the world, even among those who do not acknowledge His name, is from Him. And He desires these characteristics to be perfectly reflected in His children. It is His purpose that in us men shall behold His beauty.

“The most valuable treatise on etiquette ever penned is the precious instruction given by the Saviour, with the utterance of the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul—words that should be ineffaceably written in the memory of every human being, young or old: ‘As I have loved you, that ye also love one another’ (John 13: 34).—*Education*, pp. 241: 4, 5; 242: 1.

COURTESY BEGINS AT HOME

Parents, take special note of these words. If you do not teach your children these good habits in their earliest days, when they are young and tender, it will be pretty well impossible to do it later.

“In many families, there is no positive rudeness among the members, only a lack of those simple, affectionate attentions which awaken a spontaneous return; a want of that consideration and gentleness of demeanor which are well-springs of comfort in every household. The well-bred host does not fail to bid his guests ‘Good night,’ and ‘Good morning,’ why should not this simple expression of good feeling be always exchanged between parents and children? The kindly morning greeting will often nip in the bud some rising fretfulness; and the pleasant ‘Good bye,’ from old and young, when leaving the house for office, shop, or school, is a fragrant memory through the day of separation. When the family gathers alone around breakfast or dinner table, the same courtesy should prevail as if guests were present. Reproof, complaint, unpleasant discussion, and scandal, no less than moody silence, should be banished. Let the conversation be genial, and suited to the little folks as far as possible.

Interesting incidents of the day's experience may be mentioned at the evening meal, thus arousing the social element. If resources fail, sometimes little bits read aloud from the morning or evening paper will kindle the conversation.”—*The Health Reformer*, February 1, 1874 par. 3.

“I wish I could impress upon young men what they might be and what they might do if they will sense the claims that God has upon them. He has given them capabilities, not to stagnate in indolence, but to strengthen and elevate by noble action.

“Character must be made. It is the work of a lifetime. It is a work requiring meditation and thought. Judgment must be well exercised, industry and perseverance established....You may be encouraged by others in your work, but they can never do your work of overcoming temptation. You cannot be honest and truthful, industrious and virtuous for them, neither can they become thus for you. In one sense you must stand alone, fighting your own battles. Yet not alone, for you have Jesus and the angels of God to help you. But few reach what they might in excellence of character, because they do not make their aim high. Prosperity and happiness will never grow of their own accord. They are the acquisition of labor, the fruit of long cultivation.—Letter 22, June 30, 1875, to W.C White, her 20-year-old son.”—*This Day with God*, p. 190.

May our Heavenly Father grant us the wisdom to lay these instructions to heart, and the will to practice them in our lives.



A Special Group, With a United Purpose

By Jim and Jeanie Webb

I stand back and look at our church and I'm amazed at how smooth different projects get accomplished. It all boils down to the fact that everyone involved has a common goal and everyone is ready to do their share to get things done. With God as our CEO we just can't help but succeed. I am so thankful that we have so many people that are willing to get involved and willing to offer their time and energy to get things done, in witnessing and helping others and evangelistic projects. I thoroughly enjoy the music and songs at our different services and the variety of speakers. I am very thankful for the truths that we (Jeanie and I) have learned since coming to this church. I can't express how much I enjoy our newest violin music added to our piano music; they blend in so nicely. Well—it's like music to my ears.

I love the fact that our guide in all our beliefs come strictly from God's word, not from only one Scripture, but from many Scriptures that reinforce each other. We really enjoy the study of the Bible, and how each verse and subject matter is discussed and broken down to learn the true meaning. There are so many people out in the world that will read a single verse and make it fit their liking or their lifestyle. Once they think they have the true meaning, they will not listen to anything or anyone that may alter their opinion. This kind of mindset will prove to be a fatal mistake to many, when Christ comes again.

Unlike many churches, there is always someone at the door ready to welcome members and visitors; we also have a

Three Angels Kitchen

Super Easy Asparagus!

Taken from Vegweb.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb asparagus
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 cup nutritional yeast
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Wash the asparagus, and cut off the ends. Snap the stalks in half and place in a Ziploc bag or some sort of container with a lid. Add olive oil, nutritional yeast, and garlic powder, and shake it all up.

Pour it all out onto a baking sheet and bake for about 15-20 minutes. Enjoy! Now wasn't that easy?

Obviously this recipe is really easy to tweak. You can add any other spices you like. You can also scale it down; I often make just one portion and bake it in the toaster oven. Have fun!

Serves: 2. Preparation time: 20 minutes. *DAJ*

It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Erik and Sinai Flottman and big brother Sungu on the arrival of:

Samantha Chihae Flottman



Born April 3, 2009 @ 11:27 AM
20 inches long & 6 lbs. 8 oz.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April

3 – Samantha Flottman	16 – Jeff Eldred-Sola
8 – Adriel Simpson	25 – Julie Orellana
14 – Barbara McGuire	26 – Suzanne Smith

group of three people who are available to operate video, audio tapings, or to set up special programs to view from satellites. We have visiting speakers on a regular basis, which really keeps it interesting. When weather permits, there seems to be plenty of special outings and events going on, to add spice to fellowship and keeping in touch with everyone. I'm also thankful for those who keep our members informed via internet e-mails and phone calls. I especially like the idea that all members take an active part in presenting lessons in study and all other aspects of the operation of our church. I'm proud to see the action of community service to our surrounding communities; thereby showing the love that Jesus wants us to have for others. The family that puts that into action does an excellent job of doing so. Even though we don't have a large group of children or young adults, there are always those who take charge to keep it fun and interesting and educational for all age groups.

On the business end of our church, those who step up to take care of offerings and tithes distribution and record-keeping do an excellent job of keeping everything in order and operating smoothly. Most business meetings include the bulk of the membership, as do most all church projects. Evangelistic projects seem to have almost all members doing their part. Even though we don't always stay for the potluck dinners every Sabbath, I am always impressed with the variety and the preparation of all the dishes. We enjoy the educational information about health and diet that is brought to us on a regular basis also. We also enjoy the Bible and other questions being explained in-depth, frequently involving a lot of study and research.

The amount of literature our church distributes is amazing, when you look at the size of our membership, as is the financial support of several projects of gospel outreach, including ASAP, Jesus for Asia, Church Planters, and our own Michael Strack (missionary in Thailand), missionary work, and helping provide funds for students in Asia. These projects are all possible because of the unselfish giving of money from our members to various tithes and offerings. I would encourage everyone to try to give more whenever they can. After all, "YOU CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD"; whatever you give, God will multiply your returns. I can't exactly always see how that works, but it surely does! We also have been blessed with a very energetic, full-time Bible worker and his family that really gets out there, working to spread the gospel. We are blessed to have three different people that volunteer to play the piano at all of our services. You have probably noticed that I didn't mention any names; this is because I didn't want to miss anyone's efforts and besides it saved me from typing a whole bunch of names. If by chance you read this article, and realize that you have not been involved in any of the activities of our church, jump right in and get involved. You will enjoy the activities and will receive huge blessings. We are very thankful for finding the Three Angels SDA Church, for the members, and for the opportunity to be a part of everything our church is involved in. *DAJ*

Editor's Note: Jim and Jeanie have been with us since the 2006 Owasso Prophecy Seminar. We are blessed to have them be a part of our church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need a Satellite Dish?

Would you like to have a 3ABN satellite dish? You can order one from Adventist Satellite by phone at 866-552-6882 or online at:

www.adventistsat.com/shop/category/glory.

If you need help with installation or troubleshooting, contact Gene Martin at 918-439-7434 when you receive your dish.

Eugene Prewitt Meetings

Coming April 25. *“Present Duty - Approaching the time of trouble”*

Dennis Priebe Meetings

Date: May 1 & 2

Location: Three Angels SDA Church – Owasso

Schedule:

Friday, 7:00 PM	Victory Over Sin—How?
Sabbath, 11:00 AM	Will the Great Controversy End Soon?
Sabbath, 2:00 PM	What Might Have Been
Sabbath, 3:30 PM	Protestant or Catholic?
Sabbath, 6:00 PM	Potluck Supper
Sabbath, 7:00 PM	Little Known Miracles of God’s Creation

any of us think that we are all right. As soon as we are taken out of the quarry, we have a work to do for ourselves. “The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh,” and we want to be considering those things that will give us solidity of character. We do not want to have a high estimate of ourselves, but we want to esteem others better than ourselves. We want that our souls shall be uplifted to God every moment for help, for fear we shall fall. And while some are so diligent to look after others, they will forget the work there is for their own soul.

We are to heed the exhortation of the apostle that we are to be holy in all manner of conversation. And as we separate those things from us which will be a hindrance to our advancement, the Holy Spirit will come in. We want to be filled with the spirit of Jesus, and if you are not closely connected with Christ, then the thoughts of your mind will be upon unimportant things; but if you are connected with Jesus, you will just as surely be a channel of light as Jesus is light, for Jesus has said to His followers, “Ye are the light of the world.”

Now, we are by living faith to keep our eyes fixed upon the Author and Finisher of our faith. “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.”

Before we become acquainted with Jesus, the conversation is upon the dress, and what shall we eat, and what shall we drink, and what shall we wear? And we find fault with one another. But as soon as we become acquainted with Christ, our conversation changes.

Here we are, objects of His love. Has the change taken place in us? Namely, have we passed from death unto life? Have we died indeed to self? Have we fastened our hearts and affections upon the great God? He is all light and power.

Every provision has been made for us that can be made by our precious Savior, that we may have that abundant grace so that we may overcome every defect in our character. And we cannot afford to satisfy ourselves in this life, but we want the fullness that is in Jesus, and we must train ourselves to talk of those things which will bring to us peace and light. As we have our conversation upon heaven and heavenly things, the angels of God are all around us; and when we are, in our thoughts and with our hearts, drawing near to God, then He is drawing nigh to us. His love is in our hearts, and then we speak it from our lips.

It is not only our duty to train our minds upon heavenly things, but we are to talk of these things, for it is our duty to bind about our mind, to gird up the loins of our mind, and say, “I will not think of these things.” Then it is our duty to guard our conversation. *DA*

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Worship Schedule

Saturday (Sabbath)

Sabbath School.....9:30am
Main Worship Service.....10:45am

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting.....7:00pm

Please send comments or suggestions about this newsletter to alfonsoorellana@msn.com

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

