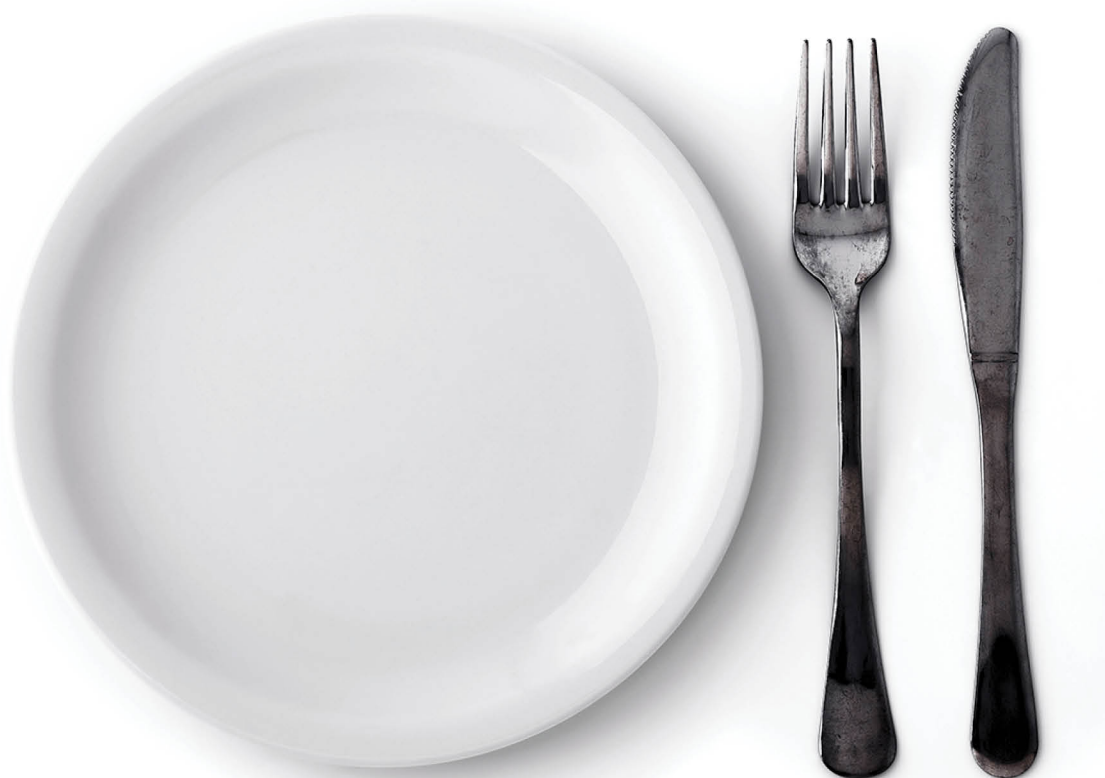


GOOD MANNERS GUIDE

Teach Your Child Manners and Respect



Stacy Farrell & Friends

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Good Manners Guide

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Special Thanks To Many Friends

This guide exists because many wise and gifted people shared their insights and talent. I really can't say I wrote it.

The idea for the guide began with a question about manners posted on social media. Using comments from our social media friends as a starting point, I created a list of manners—categorized by four fruits of the Spirit: Love, Kindness, Faithfulness, and Self-Control.

Many thousands of families downloaded that list.

Several parents took the time to say how much they appreciated it. Their feedback inspired me to outline this guide and plan to write it. But, life....

Once again, my research assistant Bonnie Rose came to the rescue. Using my outline, she created a first draft of the guide. Another gifted writer refined Bonnie's draft. I edited their combined work. Then my sweet and faithful sister Joyce added her editorial insights. Lastly, my son Ryan did a final review.

So, as you can see, the guide bears the fingerprints of many loving, kind, faithful people who exercised the self-control necessary to complete the task of writing it.

I am grateful and indebted to each one of them.



Why it matters...

“Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others.”

Emily Post

IMAGINE

Imagine a world without manners:

- Shoving. Burping. Farting.
- Shoveling food into mouths with dirty hands.
- Fingers picking noses ... publicly poking private places.

Now imagine a world where good manners are taught and those who practice them are appreciated and respected:

- Silverware clasped by clean hands.
- Mouths closed as food is chewed and swallowed.
- Lips speaking words of encouragement.

As parents, we have the power to influence the future by raising the next generation. The traits and manners we instill in our children today will impact the world around them tomorrow.

Let's define what we mean by "manners."

Don't worry. We're not going to teach obscure lessons on eating with the elite in this guide.

What we *will do* is strive to train the heart to perform the manner.

Why should we eat with our mouths closed? Because it's an outward act of an inward belief that we esteem others more highly than ourselves.

How does what we do impact others? Positively or negatively?

That's the heart behind the matter ... and manner.

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A Culture of Rudeness

The Scriptures talk about a day when the love of most will grow cold. People will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful....

Some say that day has arrived.

How did we get here, and can we change direction?

It's no secret that there is an abundance of anger and negativity in our world today. But do we contribute to it? If so, can we stop?

The Epidemic Spreads

It's easy to get caught up in the anger and frustration of those around us. It takes only moments to be inundated with negativity in various forms. It's easy to reflect those same feelings and attitudes toward others.

But God calls us to be different. He says we are chosen, set apart to declare His praises (1 Peter 2:9).

- What do we communicate to others when we are being rude or selfish?
- We are ambassadors from another country who represent the King of Kings who rules with the Law of Love.
- We have the opportunity to impact our culture in a profound and healthy way.

One of the greatest opportunities and privileges we possess as parents is to raise our children—the next generation—to be godly ambassadors for Christ.

The question is ... how do we do that?

How do we teach our children to stand firm in love and kindness when surrounded by a culture that encourages self-centeredness and rudeness?

That's precisely what will be discussed throughout this guide.

Why it matters ...

Small Things; Big Impact

Small things matter. Each time we choose to say—or not say—something, we make a difference in the life of someone else. We can radically change the world we live in by developing and practicing love, kindness, faithfulness, and self-control.

These four fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) are virtues God wants to cultivate in each of our lives. He promises to work in our hearts to help us become more like His Son and learn to do His will (Philippians 2:13).

Let's work together to learn to recognize some of the opportunities God gives us to develop and strengthen these qualities in our lives.

Then let's learn to use them to the fullest!

Actions Impact Attitude

As we develop these fruits of the Spirit—and the manners they translate into—it's not just others who will be impacted. So often the Lord fills our own cup to overflowing as we pour into others.

Practicing good manners is no different. It requires us to refocus our eyes from ourselves to God first and other people second. In doing so, it aligns our hearts and minds with His. It also breaks down the barriers of "self" and allows His Spirit to work freely in us.

As a result, we'll find ourselves happier and more at peace. What a gift from the Father to us, and oh what a gift from you to your children!

As we look at the heart behind each manner and ways to work it out in day-to-day living, let's start with love. After all, if we have not love, we are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:2).

Sample

Love

“There is nothing more truly artistic than to love people.”

Vincent van Gogh

THE GOLDEN RULE

The Golden Rule is so simple. And yet, how many of us actively practice it?

“And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

Luke 6:31 ESV

Treat others the way you want them to treat you. It’s a critical part of the very definition of love.

We know that love is of utmost importance to God because Scripture tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8).

On top of that, He has this to say:

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God....

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”

1 John 4:7, 11, 12

Do you want the love of God to be perfected in you? In the lives of your children? Then we must learn to love one another.

But how do we teach that in a tangible way to the little souls entrusted to us?

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Not only do we need to teach our children how to love, but we also need to teach them to *actually perform* the loving actions that we teach. That requires perseverance. (Both in the teaching and in the doing.)

Prayerfully consider what the people around you need, and meet those needs as you are able.

Essentially, put the needs of others ahead of your own.

It's simple, but challenging. It requires sacrifice.

For instance, wouldn't it be easier if you didn't have to run that extra errand tonight for a loved one?

For younger children, wouldn't it be easier to play instead of helping a sibling clean that mess?

Of course it would, but those are acts of love and worthy investments of our time.

Remember, *"if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us"* (1 John 4:12).

Let's look at some practical ways we can show love every day to those around us.

1. Listen

You've probably heard the saying, "God gave us two ears and one mouth, so we ought to listen twice as much as we speak."

Listen with sincerity when others speak to you. That sounds good, but what does it actually mean to listen sincerely?

It means to not only listen with your ears, but also with your mind. Really think about what they are saying. Give them your full attention.

Think back to the last few conversations you had with your family members. Do you remember what they talked about? Or were you distracted or too busy thinking of your own needs to really hear them?

How many times have you been annoyed at someone for interrupting you—only to likewise interrupt someone else?

When we listen intently without interrupting, we let others know that what they say truly matters to us. Although this is an unspoken gesture, it speaks volumes!

As you listen:

- Look into the eyes of the person who is speaking.
- Wait for a natural pause in the conversation before you speak.
- When appropriate, rephrase and repeat back what the person said and ask whether you understood correctly.

2. Apologize

It's easy to be wrong. It's not as easy to admit you're wrong. It's even harder to admit it and ask the person you've offended to forgive you.

That requires us to be humble ... and to put others ahead of ourselves. Isn't that the common thread of love?

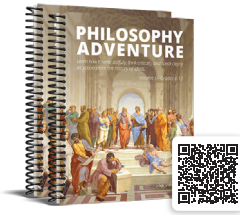
When you are wrong, sincerely apologize.

This one simple step will move you away from the snare of pride that is always waiting to catch us. It will also draw you closer to the heart of God (Proverbs 3:34).

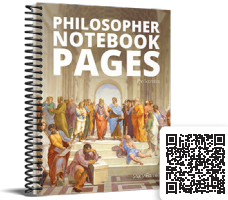
A good apology is one that comes from the heart—not one that is mumbled under your breath as quickly (and empty) as possible.

- Be specific.
- Acknowledge the hurt.
- Ask for forgiveness.
- Alter your behavior as needed moving forward.

Homeschool Adventure Resources



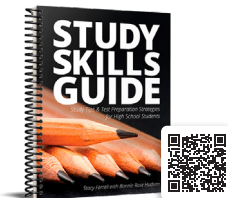
Philosophy Adventure is designed to help students 6th-12th grade cultivate and defend a biblical worldview by teaching them how to write skillfully, think critically, and speak articulately as they explore the history of ideas. If you need to teach advanced writing ... if you want your students equipped to discern truth ... if you wonder how to strengthen them academically ... **PHILOSOPHY ADVENTURE MAY BE YOUR SOLUTION!**



Do you have older students taking the *Philosophy Adventure*? You don't have to leave younger siblings behind! With coloring pages, copywork, maps, and more — **Philosopher Notebook Pages** makes it easy for young students to document their discoveries. **IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO INTRODUCE YOUR LITTLE ONES TO THE WORLD OF IDEAS!**



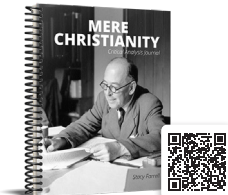
COMBAT A CULTURE OF RUDENESS WITH CLEAR ACTION STEPS & CHARACTER-BUILDING INSIGHTS. The *Good Manners Guide* contains 50+ pages of actionable strategies and thought-provoking lessons to help families display respect, kindness, self-control, and more in an increasingly godless culture.



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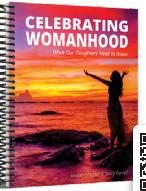
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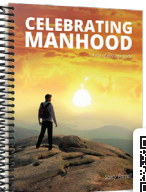
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