

Lady and Gentleman Courtesies!

By Judi, The Manners Lady

(5th in a series of articles making manners fun for our kids!)

Training our “Young Ladies” and “Young Gentlemen!”

One of the nicest compliments someone can say to you is, “*Your son is such a gentleman!*” or “*What a lovely young lady your daughter has become!*”

Although over the past few decades, there has been a loud, vocal minority of angry women who have yelled at men for acting like gentlemen by treating them like “ladies,” I am convinced that 99.9% of women today **LOVE** it when a gentleman treats them like a lady—and offers them their seat, helps them with their coat, or opens the door for them. These may seem like small things, but it’s the small things in life that are precious. These simple courtesies don’t cost a penny, but they are wonderful ways of showing someone respect and making them feel special—which is what all manners do—they make others feel special and valued.

Even though God created men and women, boys and girls as equal... we are different in some ways, with different roles and responsibilities. By acting like a gentleman, boys, teens and men can honour and respect ladies.

Don’t wait until your children are teenagers to start teaching them these principles and skills. Start *now* by practicing at home with each other. With National Manners Month coming up in October, this is a great opportunity to teach and inspire your daughters to be ladies and our sons to be gentlemen.

All males are men, but not all men are gentlemen. All females are women, but not all females act like ladies. Ladies don’t curse or gossip, smack their gum or sit with their legs sprawled open. They walk tall with grace—not with self-centered snobbery, but with an inner confidence and a gracious smile—thinking about other people, rather than themselves. Their words are kind and inclusive—making other people feel special, and their smiles are genuine to show that they care. Ladies love to laugh and have fun—but their laughter isn’t at someone else’s expense. By acting like a lady, a girl makes it so much easier for our boys to be gentlemen.

It starts at home

Even though as mothers we are perfectly capable of getting the door for ourselves and putting on our own coat, it’s important that our sons see their fathers honouring us by acting gentlemanly in treating us as a lady. So slow down... let your husband get your chair for you at the dinner table... or wait a few extra seconds in the car for your

husband to walk around and get the door for you. Don't forget—it is often said that the way a boy treats his mother is the way that he'll treat his wife. Therefore one of the most valuable things you can do for your son is to prepare him to cherish his wife—and teach him practical ways of doing that. As every home schooling family knows, your home is your son and daughter's "boot camp" training for life.

Note: In addition to men and boys doing these courtesies to women and girls, ALL children should do these courtesies for adults they meet, and all adults should do these courtesies for elderly adults.

Here are some specific situations and practical ways **gentlemen** can show kindnesses to **ladies**, and for **ladies** to be gracious to **gentlemen**.

Gentlemen:

Gentlemen should always open doors for ladies as they step back and let them pass through first, and graciously say, "**After you!**"

Young ladies will open the door for older ladies. Grandmother first, mother second, and daughter third.

Gentlemen stand when ladies enter the room. It is polite for young people to stand when adults enter the room. We should also stand when we are being introduced to someone.

Gentlemen open the car door for ladies. If it's a special event, she will wait for him to come around and help her out of the car. In a limousine, wait for the driver to let you out.

Gentlemen seat the ladies at the table before they seat themselves.

They rise when ladies excuse themselves and when they return. The gentleman takes care of the lady to his right.

When a lady needs to get up from the table, she should quietly say, "May I be excused?" The gentleman to her left will get up, come around behind her chair and help pull her chair back to let her out. All the other gentlemen at the table will also stand. They will sit back down when she is away from the table, and the process is repeated when she returns. **Note:** A lady doesn't say, "Please excuse me, I need to go to the bathroom." It's more polite to say, "*Please excuse me, I'll be back in a moment.*" Ladies, help the gentleman move your chair by leaning forward and resting your hands on the seat to support the bulk of your weight. (Otherwise, they'll never be able to move you!)

A gentleman helps a lady with her coat or sweater.

The **gentleman walks on the curb side** of the road. This a courtesy of protection and to keep the lady from getting splashed by puddles.

Gentlemen carry packages for ladies. Young ladies carry the bags for their mothers.

Young ladies and gentlemen give up their seat to adults, the infirm, the handicapped, expecting women, or the elderly in crowded buses or waiting rooms. Never be seated until your mother is seated. (Guess who gave up his seat for me one day when I was in Seattle for basketball's "Final Four" tournament... I was thrilled when I realized this distinguished elderly gentleman was the legendary UCLA Basketball Coach, John Wooden! Amazing, eh? He trained all his athletes to be gentlemen!)

A **gentleman stands behind** a lady on an escalator going up; in **front** going down. He walks down a dark theatre aisle first and the lady will follow.

If a lady drops something, a **gentleman or younger person will pick it up.**

If a **gentleman always walks a lady to the car and gets the door** for her.

A **gentleman will NEVER hit** or hurt a lady. A boy must never hit or hurt a girl.

Girls—**treat** the boys in your family and ones you meet **with kindness.** Don't gossip or tease the boys. Treat them like your brother, and you wouldn't want other girls being mean to your brother.

Lady and gentlemen courtesies are just another way of showing the love of Jesus to someone—by being kind and respectful. In the book of Matthew, Jesus reminds us to treat others the way we want to be treated. If we would like others to treat us with kindness and respect, let's do it for others!

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Judi, The Manners Lady, is a singer and entertainer for families as well as a speaker and trainer for parents and teachers. She launched The Manners Club as a way of taking God's foundational truths and principles for "how to live!" to the nations—through music and fun! Kids love both the music and the message.

Judi has launched the non profit, "Canadian Project for Manners & Civility" and National Manners Month is in October.

*For tips on how to use The Manners Club curriculum and music in your home school or your group or church, call 1-866-ASK JUDI or if you'd like info on **coordinating National Manners Month** for your city or to request free resources and handouts for your home school group, email Judi@TheMannersClub.com.*

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