

**SPIRITUAL SOCIAL ETIQUETTE**  
**1 Peter 2:11-25**

**Etiquette** – accepted behavior in a particular social group or situation. “Spiritual social etiquette” is:

Walking worthy of the Lord.” Colossians 1:10-12.

The 3R’s of etiquette - Reputation, Respect, and Reflect.

**Reputation** – (v.11, 12).

(Galatians 5:16-17, 19-25) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

(v.19-25) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

How do we “walk in the Spirit,” by “not grieving” the Spirit! Ephesians 4:31, 32

(Proverbs 25:26) A righteous man who falters before the wicked Is like a murky spring and a polluted well.

(2 Corinthians 5:17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

“Fallen believer,” His “blood has us covered! 1 John 1:9.

(Isaiah 61:3b) “...beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

(v.12) When our “conduct” is honorable, there is no need to defend ourselves.

**Respect** – (v.13-20).

Respect honors a person's humanity and value before God!

(Romans 13:1-4) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

(Acts 5:29-32) But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

(v.16) Vice -*kakia*: wickedness (not ashamed to break laws); ill-will, desire to injure.

Bondservants – *doulos*: a willing slave; one who gives himself up to another's will; Exodus 21:4-6.

love the brotherhood! (1 John 4:20-21) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

“Motivation” for our *social etiquette* - (v.15)

God is your “defense.” (Psalm 31:2-3) Bow down Your ear. Awn doorpost – pierced ear lobe to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.

(v.18-20)

Not an endorsement “slavery.”

(Psalm 146:7) Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.

**(1 Corinthians 7:21) Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.**

**“Freedom” is the heart cry of the “gospel!”**

**(v.19) *If you are fired for not doing our job do not call it “persecution!”***

**It is “commendable” that for conscience’s sake toward God, *we endure unfavorable treatment or persecution.***

**Reflect – (v.21-25).**

**We are called to “reflect” the love of Christ., for the “benefit” of others; following the example of our Lord.**

**CONCLUSION: *Strategic social etiquette - reputation, respect, and reflection of Jesus.***

**(Proverbs 14:26-) In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.**

**(Proverbs 29:25) The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.**