

CONSIDERING *Others*

Good Manners to Glorify God

*A Biblical and Practical
Parental Guide
to Good Manners*

JUNGU OLOBIA

REDEMPTION
PRESS 

© 2019 by Jungu Olobia. All rights reserved.

Published by Redemption Press, PO Box 427, Enumclaw, WA 98022
Toll Free (844) 2REDEEM (273-3336)

Redemption Press is honored to present this title in partnership with the author. The views expressed or implied in this work are those of the author. Redemption Press provides our imprint seal representing design excellence, creative content and high quality production.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior permission of the copyright holder, except as provided by USA copyright law.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

“Scriptures marked BBE are taken from the Bible in Basic English, public domain.”

“Taken from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. Copyright © 1998. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Messianic Jewish Publishers, 6120 Day Long Lane, Clarksville, MD 21029. www.messianicjewish.net.”

“Taken from the Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version Copyright © 2014 by Bible League International. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”

“Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”

“Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version®. Copyright © 1996-forever by The ISV Foundation. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY. Used by permission.”

“Scriptures marked KJV are taken from the KING JAMES VERSION, public domain.”

“Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”

“Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.”

“Scripture quotations marked TPT are from The Passion Translation®. Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Passion & Fire Ministries, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ThePassionTranslation.com.”

“Scripture taken from The Voice™. Copyright © 2012 by Ecclesia Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”

ISBN 13: 978-1-68314-623-0

ePub ISBN: 978-1-68314-624-7

Kindle ISBN: 978-1-68314-625-4

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 2018965753

This book is dedicated to the Holy Spirit,
for the development of godly character,
integrity, and success in children
of all ages everywhere.

Foreword

Considering Others: Good Manners to Glorify God is a book we believe has been long needed. It is not just another book full of tips and points on etiquette, but much more. We live in a season where justification for what we do and how we do it begs for correctness, and in some cases reverence. Jungu Olobia has poured her time and heart into sharing with people of all ages the importance of manners and behavior through the principles as defined and described in the living Word of God. She addresses matters of life that affect the smallest to the eldest of persons.

As Christian parents, we are often faced with the balance between society's guidelines and what the Bible has to say on how to conduct oneself in any situation. Jungu has done a great job in applying Scripture to every area of behavior and manners and brings light to the important role they play in one's destiny.

Children are impressionable, and their characters are molded at a young age. We personally can recall that much of our etiquette and manners were shaped by not just our parents but the godly influences in our lives. There was always the reminder that first, we represent Christ, and second, we were always to be ready for whatever situation

or environment we would find ourselves in. The chapters in the book on the role parents and guardians play in influencing and molding their children's lives are so important to understand and embrace. The Word of God tells us in Deuteronomy 11 that it is our responsibility to teach the Word of God to our children at all times and in all situations. This book supports and reinforces the teachings of God's Word.

So a big God bless and kudos to Sister Jungu Olobia for her obedience to God and allowing Him to use her to address this very important subject.

Pastors Stephen R. and Emilia Hill

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	11
Chapter 1: Good Manners Save the Day	15
Chapter 2: Developing Good Manners, Etiquette, and Protocol	25
Chapter 3: The Holy Spirit, Our Guide.....	33
Chapter 4: Grieving the Holy Spirit	41
Chapter 5: How My Experiences with Occult Practices Kept Me from Considering Others	47
Chapter 6: My Salvation Story: How Christ Taught Me to Consider Others.....	61
Chapter 7: Imperfect Parents as Role Models	71
Chapter 8: Guardians as Role Models.....	81
Chapter 9: The Lord’s Sheep.....	91
Chapter 10: Meeting and Greeting Etiquette.....	101
Chapter 11: Spiritual Etiquette.....	107
Chapter 12: Personal Etiquette.....	113
Chapter 13: Family Etiquette	127
Chapter 14: Table Etiquette.....	137
Chapter 15: Church Etiquette.....	143

Chapter 16: International Etiquette.....	147
Chapter 17: Benefits of Good Manners God's Way	159
Appendix.....	163
Acknowledgments	167

Introduction

The idea for this book began in October 2015, when one of my pastors, Pastor Emilia Hill, asked me to put together a ten-minute segment on etiquette for a “children’s tea” she’d envisioned for the children at our church. By that time, I had been serving for about twelve years as a volunteer teacher in the children’s church—about seven years at my previous church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and about five years at my current church in Southlake, Texas.

My two children, Andrew and Joshua, were seven and two and a half years of age, respectively, in 2015. I proudly remember one Sunday morning a few years before, Andrew—five years old then—asked me and the head usher if he could serve as an usher. Since then, he has been serving as a junior usher. Pastor Emilia and many others have often complimented my husband and me on our children’s good manners, so when she asked that I teach the children about etiquette, I gladly accepted.

As I prepared my etiquette presentation, something amazing happened: Scriptures flooded my mind. The Holy Spirit taught me that etiquette and good manners have always been God’s idea first. I realized that the Bible is truly God’s etiquette, a life manual for righteous, victorious, and successful living. Titus 3:1–2 (ISV): “Remind

believers to submit to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, and to be ready to do any honorable kind of work. They are not to insult anyone or be argumentative. Instead, they are to be gentle and perfectly courteous to everyone.”

The foundation for respectful behavior is the Word of God. The way we treat one another matters. Etiquette may be different between cultures; however, practicing good manners is a kindness that extends across cultures. We honor people from other countries or backgrounds by honoring each other’s etiquette. Many relationships in marriages, families, churches, businesses, and governments fail because of poor interpersonal (social) and communication (interactional) skills. Education, talents and gifts, connections, appearance, and money are important in our world; however, time and time again we see—and studies show—that the key to true success is how we interact with one another. In other words, how we speak to and about each other (verbal interaction) and how we behave around each other (physical interaction) are the golden keys. Taking time to learn and understand etiquette and good manners will help us build better personal and professional relationships. Good manners and etiquette will open doors where education, beauty, money, or power cannot.

Psalm 34:11–14 (NLT): “Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the Lord. Does anyone want to live a life that is long and prosperous? Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.” Let us take a moment to meditate on the richness of these Scriptures. In verse 11 we are alerted, warned even, that there may be many who are called God’s children, but only those who truly listen will be taught to fear the Lord.

Fearing the Lord is something that must be taught. This is one of the reasons why it is vital that every believer belong to a Bible-believing local church where they can be taught the Word of God and grow in

spiritual understanding and wisdom. To be taught, we must be willing to listen. As I continue to meditate on verse 11, allowing the Word of God to judge my heart, I tremble as I ask this question: Am I listening to the Holy Spirit, my Teacher? If I am, is there any evidence of this? What fruit do I exhibit? The Bible tells us in Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT): “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” From this foundation we can develop good manners.

What are bad manners? Simply put, bad manners are bad habits or behaviors. They are demonstrated by the following:

1. A bad attitude
2. Being disrespectful and unkind to others
3. Talking back to parents and other elders
4. Unwilling to listen and obey God-appointed authority, such as parents and teachers
5. Incessantly interrupting when others are speaking
6. Unwilling to forgive, bitter and vengeful (I will punish you my own way to hurt you so that I feel better.)
7. Emotionally unstable, temperamental, abusive to humans and animals
8. Suspicious and falsely accusing to control and manipulate situations
9. Lazy, unwilling to help out
10. Impatient (I want it and I want now!)
11. Bullying—including cyberbullying—fighting, hitting, harassing, and secretly betraying others, believing the lie that what they do not know will not hurt them
12. Envious (I don’t want it, but I don’t want you to have it.)
13. Jealous (I want it, and I want to take it from you so you won’t have it.)

14. Slanderous (spreading embarrassing truths or lies about others to destroy their reputations, even under the guise of praying for them with the intention of appearing more righteous. Also included here is online defamation via social media.)
15. Every bad and unwholesome speech and deed, including breaking the laws of the land

This list depicts negative human choices, but if we are being led by the Holy Spirit and listening to Him, we are called, instead, per Psalm 34:13–14 (NLT) to “keep [our] tongue from speaking evil and [our] lips from telling lies. [To] turn away from evil and do good. To search for peace, and work to maintain it.” This takes effort. It takes learning etiquette and good manners God’s way.

Chapter 1

Good Manners Save the Day

A fool vents all of his anger, but a wise man brings himself under control.

(PROVERBS 29:11 WEB)

Brave, wise, considerate, and kind. That's how the author of 1 Samuel described a beautiful woman named Abigail. In contrast, her husband, Nabal, is described as extremely harsh, evil, mean, cruel, and badly behaved. While Abigail was graced with godly wisdom and excellent manners, it's clear that her husband, Nabal, though prosperous, didn't value the same things as his wife. Let's take a closer look at the biblical story in 1 Samuel 25 about these two characters and the consequences of their choices.

Nabal was a wealthy but arrogant man who owned thousands of sheep and goats. The Bible discloses that to many in his community, he was infamously known to be hot tempered, vulgar, stubborn, insensitive, abusive, a fool, defiant, dishonest, corrupt, cursed, an embarrassment to his Calebite tribe, and so evil and arrogant that no

one could speak to him. Sadly, these labels represent many in our world today, both young and old, both lay worker and leader, both Christian and non-Christian.

These descriptions of Nabal's character were expressed by many publicly and privately, including by members of his own household: his wife, Abigail, and his male servant. The people who know us best, who see our true character, are God and members of our families. Nabal was a husband, a successful businessman, a leader in the community with many servants, a neighbor, a citizen of Israel, which also means he was supposed to be a believer and doer of God's Word. Being so indifferent, cruel, and complacent was something he learned from an early age, something he perfected over time and with much practice.

David and his men had been camping in the wilderness where Nabal's men grazed the livestock, and David's group had protected Nabal's from danger day and night. After some time, during a holiday season, David heard Nabal was shearing his sheep. (Here is the significance of shearing sheep: My grandparents had a large farm in Kenya, where they raised sheep and other livestock. During holidays and other special family occasions, they would slaughter a sheep or goat to prepare as part of a great feast. Before they slaughtered the sheep, they sheared it. It was the same with Nabal.) David understood that shearing meant it was time for slaughter, time for celebration, which meant there would be plenty of fresh meat to enjoy. He immediately sent ten young men to Nabal requesting provisions, as they had not harmed his workers or stolen his animals—in fact, they had protected them.

Why ten? Ten was a nonthreatening number to show that David came in peace, that he understood order and respect, and that he was not greedy, even if he had six hundred soldiers, not including their families and servants, to feed. The number ten also points to God's perfect timing and order, completeness or fullness of time. For

example, we have the Ten Commandments. There were ten plagues of judgment upon Egypt, causing them to release, though reluctantly, the Israelites from slavery. The number ten perhaps represented God's completions of goodness and mercy toward Nabal. He gave him one more opportunity to repent of his evil ways. The Bible also points out that David sent young men. The significance of young men may be that even if Nabal and Abigail had no children together, they still had the opportunity to influence other people's children, by showing them what hospitality, kindness, grace, and mercy look like.

Not knowing how ungrateful, unscrupulous, and insolent Nabal was, David instructed his messengers to exercise protocol before this leader by speaking a blessing over Nabal before asking for anything. When the ten young men met with Nabal, they relayed David's blessing for long life, peace upon him and his family, and continued increase of everything that Nabal owned. David humbled himself through these young men, even calling himself a son of Nabal, for he said in verse 1 Samuel 25:8: "Ask your young men; they will tell you this is true [that we stole nothing; instead, we protected your servants and possessions]. Please return our kindness and look on my young men with favor since we come on this feast day. Please give whatever you can spare to them and to your son David" (*Voice*).

David offering himself as a son let Nabal know that he was extending a hand of lifelong friendship, loyalty, protection, favor, love, and respect. Nabal, however, was too blinded by vanity and a false reality of himself. Well known for his hot temper, he reacted to David's kindness and humility with utter contempt, verbalizing grave insults and foolish threats for David and his men. He arrogantly refused to honor David's request, calling David an unknown defiant, runaway slave who was leading a gang of insurgents. These were serious insults because Nabal not only rejected David, but despised, as if nothing,

David and his men's personal sacrifices, great victories, and loyalties to King Saul and the nation of Israel.

The young men immediately departed to inform David, who became infuriated and decided to avenge himself and his soldiers. Immediately arming himself, he called for four hundred of his men to arms as well and descended toward Nabal's estate to execute him and his entire household.

Four hundred is a large number and of great significance, for it reminds us of bondage, afflictions, idolatry, trials, and even fulfillment of prophecy. For example, God tells Abraham that the Israelites would be in slavery for four hundred years in Egypt but promises they would be released and possess Canaan. The number four hundred also refers to death and the grave. For example, after the death of Sarah, Abraham purchases land from the Hittites for four hundred shekels of silver as a burial site for his beloved wife. In Nabal's case, terrible judgment was sure because of his continued obstinacy. Proverbs 29:1 (TPT): "Stubborn people who repeatedly refuse to accept correction will suddenly be broken and never recover."

In 1 Samuel 25:14, one of the male servants informed Abigail of her husband's harsh and foolish actions against David's men and ultimately against his own household, encouraging her to act quickly, for David had planned immediate retaliation. Abigail was horrified, understanding the dangerous repercussions of her husband's foolishness, for who had not heard of David's bravery and great success in battle against the enemies of Israel? Without delay, Abigail concocts a quick and brilliant plan to save her family and servants from sure death. She hurriedly packs and loads up her donkeys with hundreds of food provisions for David and his men and informed her servants to go ahead of her. How brilliant and wise! The sight of the gifts would have appeased David and his men enough to allow Abigail the opportunity to apologize and explain the situation. Proverbs 18:16 (*Voice*): "The

right gift at the right time can open up new opportunities and gains access to influential people.”

Deciding it best not to inform or alert her husband, Abigail left his estate to approach and appease David herself. As she was riding down the mountain on a hidden trail, she suddenly came upon an angry David and his men on their way to destroy her home. She immediately dismounted from her donkey and fell at David's feet, apologizing profusely for her husband's foolish and arrogant words against him and his men. Abigail reminded David that God would surely avenge his enemies and that her hot-tempered husband was not worth shedding any blood over. She proved to David she was nothing like her husband by letting him know she did not see the messengers he had sent and that she even prayed that all of David's enemies become cursed, as Nabal was.

Abigail demonstrates godly wisdom and understanding when she reminded David of God's blessings, protection, and promises concerning his life. She ended with a request that when the Lord had fulfilled those promises, that David please remember her. Abigail then presented her gifts to David, who accepted them and her apology, his anger having been appeased. He immediately changed his mind about killing Nabal and his entire household, acknowledging, thanking, and blessing Abigail for her discernment and tactfulness.

Abigail returned home to find her husband partying like a king and heavily drunk. She waited till the morning, when her husband had sobered up, to tell him what happened the day before. On hearing the news, Nabal had a stroke and lay paralyzed in bed. Ten or so days later, the Lord took his life.

David heard the news of Nabal's death and rejoiced that the Lord kept him from avenging himself by killing Nabal. Without delay, awed by Abigail's humility, decorum, and wittiness, David sent messengers to her with a marriage proposal, which she gladly accepted, leaving with

them to become David's wife. All this because of kind and pleasant words and actions.

From the story, we see the consequences of bad manners in that Nabal lost everything in the end, including his wife, his wealth and estate, and even his life. He had no interest in considering others and was hated and despised by many, including his own wife. Notice that though Abigail was married to him, because of his bad temper and stubbornness, she chose to keep pertinent information from him. This is a warning to those who neglect and abuse their spouses and children, that eventually they will lose everything. Nabal lacked good sense and did not get to enjoy the blessings of the Lord for long.

After Nabal's death, and with David's marriage proposal, Abigail did not hesitate to leave Nabal's wealth, estate, and many servants. She left everything behind except for five female attendants who accompanied her to her new home. Many times, the number five in the Bible refers to grace, favor, freedom, and provision. For example, the boy with the five loaves and two fish that Jesus miraculously multiplied to feed thousands of people. In Exodus 20:12, the fifth commandment is the only commandment, out of the ten, with a promise: "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you" (NLT).

Abigail demonstrated understanding in good manners. She showed good manners when she apologized for what her husband had done, and blessed David, persuading him to repent of his plans to annihilate her family. Abigail demonstrated good etiquette when she stepped up to the plate, taking the difficult responsibility of providing food provisions for David and his men, something that was her husband's responsibility. She showed great consideration for others when she put herself in danger by approaching David, and his four-hundred mighty-men army, so that others could be saved, hence abating disaster on all sides.

Having been born and raised in Kenya, I have seen how many use wealth and power to destroy others, especially when there is no law and order to protect the poor, to protect women, and to protect children. Yet God is still there, and a defender and avenger of the oppressed, especially when they call on Him. When we look at ourselves and our society today, what kind of example are we to others: our children, our spouses, our neighbors, our coworkers?

As a mother, I care deeply about raising and training my children to have godly character. Just as Abigail was appalled by her husband's behavior, I am appalled by the total lack of respect and lack of consideration for others rampant in our world today. Every kind of crime, including cyberbullying, identity thefts, and hackings are at an all-time high. I worked at a college for ten years and witnessed firsthand the shocking and disrespectful behavior of some of our youth. We only need turn on the news, read a newspaper, or talk to our children, a teacher, a policeman, a coworker, or a neighbor to hear something troubling about someone hurting another.

We live in a world that is cutthroat, where the end justifies the means and collateral damage is the order of the day. We hear of high-collar crimes and golden parachutes, and we wonder how people can live with themselves knowing they've lost or stolen millions of pension funds and destroyed countless lives. We hear of the pure evil and carnage of terrorists around the world, the wars and rumors of wars, and wonder how some can have so much hatred. Abigail, a wealthy woman and employer of many with her husband, cared for her employees. She did not have children with Nabal, yet she risked her life for her servants by approaching an angry war general and not only humbling herself before him but also before his soldiers and even before her own servants.

My husband has been practicing pediatric medicine for over twenty-five years, seeing newborn babies to eighteen-year-olds, and the

alcohol and drug epidemic among the youth is staggering, especially the percentage from broken homes. There are many cases of horrifying abuse by parents, other relatives, and mentors against their children. There are also terrible abuses by children against children at home and in school. Statistics show that more children are being exposed to pornography from an early age and that they act out what they see by sometimes even preying on other children. In 2016 the American College of Pediatricians, a national medical association of licensed physicians and healthcare professionals, released an article entitled “The Impact of Media Use and Screen Time on Children, Adolescents, and Families,” which stated:

A recent and systematic examination of the peer-reviewed research spanning years 1995 to 2015 indicated that pornography use among adolescents is prevalent, mainly accessed via the Internet, and first exposure often occurs unintentionally. Although there are many variables impacting this research, pornography is associated with more permissive sexual attitudes and stronger gender-stereotypical sexual beliefs. Additionally, the same review found pornography used to be associated with early sexual intercourse, greater experience with casual sex behavior, and increased sexual aggression both as perpetrators and victims.

Other concerns in society are increasing problems with homelessness, mental health issues, abductions, child soldiering, and human smuggling and trafficking, which are all at an all-time high. Second Timothy 3:1–5 (KJV): “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false

accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

To start the process for healing, it is important to recognize we have a serious problem in our world today. The solution to the problem is believing in and wholeheartedly following the example of Jesus Christ. There is no other way. Christ is God’s answer to a terribly troubled world. With salvation comes the gift of the Holy Spirit, who teaches us God’s Truth (the Bible) and God’s way of living, first by loving Him, then, second, by loving our neighbor.

Who is my neighbor? My neighbor is anyone who needs my help. Who needs my help? As a wife, my husband needs my help, for he is my immediate neighbor, followed by my children. It’s important to prioritize who’s and what’s truly important to nurture healthy marriages and families.

Pay attention to the amount of time spent browsing the internet, or working, or playing hobbies, or with friends and colleagues, or playing video games, or on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, compared to the time we spend with our families. It’s so easy to end up ignoring, neglecting, and abandoning family members and not realizing it until it’s too late.

Technology addictions are major problems around the world today. In South Korea, for example, there is a law forbidding youth under the age of sixteen from playing online video games between midnight and 6:00 a.m. The “shutdown law,” also called the “Cinderella law,” went into effect in 2011. Access to online games is blocked during the shutdown period for all gamers under sixteen.

It’s clear we need help overcoming technology addictions. That help starts by humbling ourselves, repenting before a holy God, and calling on Him for direction. We need to obey His instructions as parents

and guardians—then we will be successful in training our children in godliness and integrity.

In 1 Samuel 25:18, we see Abigail’s response to serious trouble. She understood the dire consequences of her husband’s foolishness. “Then Abigail, *knowing the stakes*, rushed about gathering *gifts similar to what her husband should have offered*. 200 loaves, 2 jugs of wine, 5 sheep (butchered and dressed), more than 50 quarts of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 fig cakes. She had these loaded on donkeys” (*Voice*). She looked foolishness, rage, and death in the face and took them down single handedly with humility, repentance, kindness of speech, and generosity. Abigail was resolute, fearless, and focused on what needed to be done. She carried the burden of blame herself rather than command one of her many servants to do the deed. This is what it will take to save our children—it will take individuals who realize we cannot be complacent and must take on the responsibility of building up our own families, our marriages, our children with the Word of God and the Holy Spirit as our guide.

Additional Reflection Verse

Proverbs 11:29 (*Voice*): A person who stirs up trouble in his family will inherit stormy winds, and foolish troublemakers will end up serving the wise.