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*Youth Says:*

These are

**GOOD...  
MANNERS**

*by*

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*THE QUEEN'S WORK*

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## INTRODUCTION

**D**URING the Students' Spiritual Leadership Convention held in the winter of 1938, fifteen thousand young people frankly and spiritedly discussed the question:

"What do you think constitutes good manners for people of your age?"

The discussion proved so stimulating, the advice the young men and women gave was so practical and valuable that I asked them whether they would be willing to put in writing some of the things that they urged as standards of good manners. They agreed most heartily.

So in the spring of that same year we sent out a questionnaire to the schools that had been represented at the conventions. Out of the answers that were returned to us, this booklet has been compiled.

That makes it, as you see, something different in the way of a book on manners.

This is not the advice of oldsters to youngsters. These are not rules laid down by the older generation for the younger generation. This is not a compilation of things that parents and teachers and guides recommend that the younger generation do; there are a good many books like that.

This is a booklet on manners written by young people for young people.

All I have done is to take what they said at the convention and later put down in writing their reasoned opinions and compile them into this booklet.

**A**LL the rules contained here were written by the young people themselves. All the standards of good manners set forth here are standards that these young people themselves set forth as necessary and important.

These are in other words rules that the young people thought, if observed by themselves and others of their generation, would make life pleasanter.

Because these are youth's own rules, presented to our readers in exactly the way that they were written by these young people, we think that this booklet is extremely valuable.

Young people can pick it up, read it, and, we hope, follow it, knowing that it was written by young men and women, boys and girls of their own age from every major section of the country who have contributed their opinions on manners. If young people think that these rules are important, they must be important. If good.

manners modeled on these rules would make the lives of young people happier, then there is good reason why such manners should become the custom of the country.

Older people will find the suggestions in this booklet highly illuminating. In the main good manners seem not to have changed much with the passing of time and the speeding up of our habits of living. We of the older generation can offer this booklet to the younger generation with the assurance that it contains, not our ancient, slightly petrified opinions, but the fresh observations of their contemporaries.

**Y**OUNG people are often accused of bad manners. Perhaps young people have always been accused of bad manners. They move so much more swiftly than do their elders that they naturally barge into things, occasionally trip up the passer-by, and sometimes go sprawling on their own faces. They have not learned that comfortable living depends upon the knowledge of what to do and how to do it with the least noise and confusion on their own parts and the least friction with others. It takes five hundred miles of slow careful driving to put an automobile in condition for safe, fast, quiet riding. It takes a good many years to learn how to live with our fellow men comfortably, urbanely, and without jarring. Some people never learn this. They always have sharp elbows and feet that invariably locate one's most painful corn. Others seem to have instinctive good manners. Others live in homes where good manners are the custom, acquired from early days.

At any rate young people clearly have fine ideas of what constitutes good manners. And if they are sometimes bored by the lectures on behavior from their elders, they may be interested to know what their associates really think about the important subject of how to live painlessly with people. For the art of manners, good manners, could probably be defined as the art of living painlessly with people. For that matter it could be defined as the outward expression of our respect for our associates, Christian charity expressing itself in due consideration for the toes, nerves, belongings, likes and dislikes, convenience, and peace of others.

We offer you what Catholic young people have told us they consider to be good manners. You more than likely will think that they have spoken and written wisely and well. All of us will sincerely hope that such excellent rules meet with more widespread acceptance and practice by those of us who are young and those of us who are old.

## YOUTH SAYS:

### *These Are Good Manners*

Young People Tell Themselves  
How to Behave

●  
QUERY: What do you regard as good manners around the home?

SINCE young people must of necessity spend a large section of their lives at home, since charity is supposed to begin in that familiar spot, since good manners are most likely to turn sour in the home atmosphere, since young people are most likely to be careless there, and since the happiness in homes depends in large measure upon the charm, gaiety, cooperation, obedience, and whole attitude of the children, we asked first for rules regarding proper conduct at home.

Here are the points stressed by the young people.

The vast majority listed as the basis of good manners at home the wider virtue of obedience.

Here are other virtues that they regarded as underlying good manners.

COURTESY to all the members of the family; a spirit of cheerfulness while in the house; cooperation in making the home an attractive and pleasant place in which to live; proper respect and consideration for the other members of the family; a spirit of peace and ready kind-

ness; neatness about one's person, room, and the whole house; punctuality, particularly at meals; quietness of manner, especially through a well-modulated voice; willingness to undertake one's share of the work of the house.

Here are some of the rules that recurred repeatedly in the discussion of these various points:

Unfailing courtesy and a good-humored acceptance of the habits of the rest of the family are important.

Our homes are real homes and not boarding houses.

Please and thank-you belong first in our own homes.

On entering his house, a boy should remove his hat.

The first signs of courtesy belong to father and mother; the next to brothers and sisters.

Courtesy demands that we introduce our family to our friends and our friends to our family.

A question from a member of the family rates a polite answer.

**C**OOPERATION between all the members of the family makes for a happy home.

The day starts with a regular pleasant, cheerful morning greeting given to all.

The day ends with a kiss for father and mother and at least a cheerful good night for the others.

Unwanted and superfluous criticisms cause friction. When criticisms are asked for, they should be given discreetly.

Every member of the family must contribute to the conversation, especially at meals.

Even younger members of the family are human beings, and they should be treated as human beings. They have a right to express their opinions, which should be treated with respect.

When a member of the family is speaking, it is bad manners to cut it.

A happy family is one that shares its belongings, its joys, its problems, and even its secrets.

The telephone should not be monopolized by any one member of the family.

When you are answering the phone for another, it is only decent to get and note down necessary details of the message.

The family has a right to be informed of your activities.

Essential for peace and cooperation is a respect for the property of others. Such property should not be borrowed without permission; it should not be taken against the wishes of the owner, however young he may be.

Due regard must be paid to the particular need of each member of the family and to his particular likes and dislikes.

One should inform mother or father when one is not going to be home, especially for meals.

Each member of the family should be in at a respectable hour at night.

**A** CHEERFUL home is a happy home. Those members of the family who bring to their home cheerfulness and a happy spirit are doing their part.

Home is the place to practice smiling.

Grumbling is out of place in a home, which should be a happy place.

When asked to do a favor or an errand, young people should display their most cheerful manner.

In home recreation and games each member should play a cheerful part.

The gayest laughter should be reserved for our own homes.

**H**OMES are held together by a spirit of mutual respect. Such respect should be shown by the parents toward their children, by children toward their parents, by children toward one another.

Vulgarity of act or expression has no place in the home.

Members of the family rate our regular and cheerful greetings.

Our parents above all others merit our respect because of who they are and what they mean to us.

But younger brothers and sisters deserve our respect too.

A decent, dignified posture, especially when we are sitting, is an essential sign of respect.

We must have a decent respect for the rights of others. Thus: Under no circumstances should we without permission read any mail except our own. We should not enter the room of another member of the



family without knocking. We should respect other members' desire for privacy. This applies to their telephone conversations if they do not wish to repeat them.

Each member of the family has a right to his opinion, which right we should respect. Sarcasm indicates a complete lack of respect for what others think or say.

Respect for our home is shown in our respect for the furnishings of that home—a complete absence of the destructive spirit, a normal desire that things be well taken care of.

**H**OMES should be places of peace. That peace results from the attitude of all the members. One pugnacious, quarrelsome, nagging, or spiteful person can destroy the peace of the home.

The last people in the world with whom one should quarrel are the members of one's family.

It is often possible for one member of the family to avert a quarrel between others by kindness, conciliation, or some well-timed distraction.

Sarcasm and the hurting of others' feelings serve to destroy peace.

We all have shortcomings; the peaceful person tries to overlook these in the members of his own family. Calling attention to shortcomings breeds trouble.

A bad temper needs controlling at home more than it does anywhere else.

Patience and kindness should be the rule in dealing with those younger than ourselves.

The worst thing one can wear around the house is a chip on the shoulder.

**M**UTUAL kindness is the source of deepest joy in the home.

Father is often a forgotten man; his sons and daughters should sincerely try to consider his comfort and happiness.

Kindness to mother consists in those small signs of affection and gratitude that are easy to give and delightful to receive.

Kindness to brothers and sisters is displayed by a regard for their feelings, their personal belongings, their interests.

Mother is pleased when we are kind to her friends, even if we do not care for them.

The cook—mother or elder sister or aunt—is made happy by a compliment on her good dinner.

Temperamental attitudes have no place in a happy home.

**A** NEAT home is a comfortable home. Neatness depends on the thoughtfulness of all the members of the family.

We wipe our feet on the door mat before we enter the house.

We dress properly and in our own room.

We are clean about our clothes and our person.

We take proper care of our own room.

We do not toss our clothes around the house; we hang them up properly.

**A** FAMILY is a society. There are set times when societies do things together. Punctuality is an obligation, especially for meals.

For all those things that the family does together, be on time.

Meals are spoiled and the spirit of the family is broken when young people fail to arrive on time.

It is good manners and fine training to get out of bed when you are called.

If parents set an hour for your coming in at night and retiring, that hour should be observed.

**A** PEACEFUL house is a quiet house. Laughter is not a disturbing factor; neither is music. Unnecessary noises and disturbing noises are out of place.

Young people should cultivate pleasant, restrained voices.

Do not have the radio so loud as to disturb others.

On the other hand quiet should be permitted parents when they want to listen to the radio.

Doors should be opened and closed quietly.

Parties can be most successful without being loud and boisterous.

**I**N a well-regulated home each member has some assigned task and does it willingly and thoroughly in gratitude for the blessings and protection of that home, in collaboration with the others of the family, and as training, if he or she is young, for the home that will someday be his or her own.

Sons and daughters accept and carry out promptly and efficiently the regular job assigned them.

They show a willingness to help when work becomes a burden to mother.

Sometimes they offer to do extra work, to run errands, when they see that this will be of help to mother or father.

**G**OOD table manners at home are a training for table manners in company. Good table manners are a sign of respect for those with whom we eat; they are the simplest marks of a well-bred person; they are the triumph of a man over the brute instincts of his animal nature.

Our table manners at home should be at least as good as our table manners in company.

If our table manners at home are bad, we will be sure to slip when we dine with outsiders.

Members of the family should come to table decently dressed.

All noise in eating is bad taste.

Eating too rapidly, talking with the mouth full, drinking with the mouth full are unpleasant and annoying to others.

Conversation at meals lifts a purely physical act to a high social plane.

Do not criticize the food.

**A** FAMILY in which the members really love one another is a family that keeps its own affairs to itself. It does not criticize the members of the family to outsiders or air the family troubles and grievances in the presence of strangers.

A young person will never criticize any member of the family when visitors are present.

He or she will not speak unkindly of the family to others.

Family affairs are not discussed outside the family circle or when visitors are present.

Members of the family will not argue or disagree in the presence of strangers.

Do not "gripe" about family matters outside the house.

**QUERY:** What signs of politeness should be given to parents?

**S**INCE parents have done so much for their children, to parents, our young people told us, children should show good manners based on sincere respect, loyal love, and obedience. Young people owe their parents:

respect for the wishes of their parents,  
their best manners,  
a generally helpful manner,  
courtesy in their external conduct.

**G**OOD manners toward parents can be shown in speech.

We should not be afraid that we are using the words please and thank-you too often; gratitude should be expressed frequently and gracefully.

These words should be the external signs of gratitude for the services our parents have rendered us.

We should excuse ourselves when we pass in front of them or run into them.

Never, either when they are present or absent, should we call them by nicknames.

Never should we contradict them.

**P**ARENTS merit consideration and deference in our conduct.

Sons and daughters treat their parents as superiors at all times.

They ask permission to do things.

When they leave, they tell their parents their destination, the companions with whom they will be, and the hour at which they expect to return.

They accept their parents' advice as well given and well meaning.

**G**OOD manners require external expression. Sons and daughters manifest a respectful, considerate attitude.

They show their parents all essential signs of courtesy.

When it is a question of giving deference to parents or to others, their parents are given the preference.

**C**HILDREN remember that love is most clearly manifested in small things — the cheerful word, the phone call, the small gift, the remembering of birthdays, the letters when away. Small external acts of respect should be given parents:

Children rise when their parents enter the room.

Parents are always introduced first when introductions are made.

Children are quick to recognize and speak to their parents when they meet them in public places.

They treat parents as a respectful boy or girl treats his or her parent on a date.

They see that parents are always seated first.

**S**ONS and daughters know that good manners toward their parents touch the following points:

They help their parents in their work, where this is possible.

They respect the family budget and are careful in money matters.

They never pout.

They accept some of the burden of caring for their younger brothers and sisters.

They show their pleasure in the company of their parents.

They stay home when by so doing they give their parents an opportunity to go out.

**QUERY:** What constitutes good manners toward brothers and sisters?

**T**HE young men and women were emphatic in their conviction that good manners toward brothers and sisters are based on love, consideration for their rights as human beings and as members of the family, tolerant good humor, and good example. They offered these general rules:

Younger brothers and sisters should be treated as equals . . . as human beings . . . not as annoying little animals or servants . . . as good friends . . . as guests in the house.

Familiarity should breed neither curtness nor flippancy.

Brothers and sisters should help one another.

They should be companionable.

Kindness and love are fundamentals in any question of manners.

**T**HEY recommended these rules to govern speech with brothers and sisters:

Be their truest friend but not their severest critic.

Salute them when they appear in the morning.

Don't yell at them.

Give them credit for having as much intelligence as you have.

Don't pick on a certain brother or sister who may seem stupid or homely.

Never belittle them in the presence of others.

Avoid criticizing them.

Don't be a tattletale.

Nagging and teasing are a curse and a bore.

Your brothers and sisters rate a thank-you and a please and an excuse-me as much as do outsiders.

You have no right to give them orders.

It is a shame to embarrass them in the presence of others.

Avoid asking them embarrassing questions.

Accept their jokes or their "cracks" in a spirit of fun; don't grow angry.

**T**HE privacy of our brothers and sisters is sacred. We should not touch their property except with their permission.

Ask permission each time you want to use their belongings.

Respect their privacy, their rooms, bureau drawers, phone calls, books.

Borrowing is a bad practice in families; borrowing without permission is the beginning of ill will.



Under no circumstances, unless with permission, should the mail of another member of the family be read or tampered with.

Their clothes, their sporting goods belong to them and should be so regarded.

**H**ERE are some special recommendations that were offered:

Help younger brothers or sisters with lessons and unpleasant tasks.

Remember them when you have candy.

If you regard them as pests, they probably will regard you as a pest too.

Occasionally let them have the biggest piece of pie or cake.

Treat their friends with respect; don't criticize or belittle them.

When you are working, give them a little money.

Never blackmail them.

If there is any correcting to be done, let your parents do it.

**H**ERE are some suggestions that were offered for good manners between brothers and sisters:

There should always be loyalty between brothers and sisters.

Treat your brother as you would a favored boy friend.

Treat your sister as you would a favored girl friend.

A brother should show the same consideration for his sister that he shows for any other girl, escorting her properly, avoiding anything that will embarrass her.

A brother should sometimes ask his sister to dance.

A brother should not let a boy get too "fresh" or personal with his sister.

Sisters should sometimes accept the advice of older brothers.

Brothers should see to it that their sisters get a chance to meet some of their boy friends.

Brothers should occasionally take their sisters to a show, a party, a dance.

Sisters should occasionally do favors for their brothers—take care of their things, make candy for them.

**QUERY:** Do you see a relationship between obedience and good manners?

**F**OR every one who answered this question by saying or writing no, thirty-five said that they saw a close connection.

Good manners, they answered, are based on obedience. Good manners spring from the desire to please, the desire to show respect.

**QUERY:** What social qualities does a young man most respect in and expect of a young woman? Why?

**T**O THIS question the young men answered with the following interesting list of qualities:

They wanted the young woman to display modesty, purity, good manners, sportsmanship, personality, neatness and good taste in dress, a sense of humor, the ability to listen well, femininity and naturalness, sincerity, intelligence, poise, kindness. They expressed themselves as disliking in a girl the habits of drinking and smoking, loud-

ness of speech, the use of too much make-up, profanity.

**H**ERE are some of the rules for social conduct that were laid down by young men for young women:

Girls should be independent and not follow the crowd.

They should be able to adapt themselves to various conditions.

Girls should not desert their escort for someone else for the whole evening.

They should have a certain amount of gratitude.

They should be feminine and not modernly mannish.

No bragging, please, about past dates.

Girls should be decent in dress and in speech.

They should not be too free to stay up too late.

They should be satisfied with less costly things.

Wisely they will laugh at their escort's jokes, but not to the extent of embarrassing him.

They will not be ashamed of their parents or immediate family.

If they do not like children, dogs, and flowers, they are untrustworthy.

They should avoid loud clothes and brilliant fingernail polish.

**QUERY:** What social qualities does a young woman most respect in and expect of a young man? Why?

**H**IGH in the list of qualities that the young ladies demanded of their escorts were manliness, sportsmanship, decency, kindness, punctuality, politeness, respect, intelligence, courtesy, neatness, a sense of humor. They dislike a boy who drinks, uses obscene language, swears, or fails in respect toward women.

**T**HEY suggested the following definite rules for social conduct:

A young man should cultivate a neat appearance.

He should develop the ability to converse pleasantly on pleasant subjects.

He should leave references to his other girl friends out of the conversation.

He should be dependable and considerate.

He must be able to take a joke.

He should cultivate a sense of humor.

He should know when to go home, not stay around too late, and not come bobbing up continuously.

He will assist a girl who is carrying a heavy bundle.

He should take a girl home at the time she is supposed to get there, otherwise she will be the one to suffer.

He should not grumble about expenses; it sounds too depressing.

**QUERY:** When a young man calls on or for a young lady, what is expected of him?

**T**O THIS question the young ladies answered:

He should have patience if the girl is a bit late.

He should get out of the car (if he is in one) and go up to the house; under no circumstances should he sit in the car and honk the horn.

When he leaves with the girl, he should assist her to the car.

While waiting for the girl, he should meet the girl's family cheerfully and have some conversation ready to use until she is ready to leave.

He is wise to fall in with and talk to her father about his (the father's) pet subject.

He should be on time.

He should tell the parents where he intends to take their daughter and the time that he expects to bring her home.

If he is merely calling on the girl, he should not stay too late.

The general rule is that his escorting of the girl starts the minute she comes down the stairs and not only after they get into the car.

He should bring her home at the time her parents indicate.

**QUERY:** When a young man calls on or for a young lady, what is expected of the young lady?

**T**O THIS question the young men answered:

She should be ready when he calls. If she isn't ready, she certainly should not keep him waiting long.

She should introduce him to those members of her family that are present.

She should be polite and pleasant, make him feel at ease in her home, be cordial and entertaining.

If the boy is a little timid, she must help him through the ordeal of meeting the family.

She should express her appreciation for an enjoyable evening.

She should not:

- pout or hold a grievance;
- expect him to carry her compact;
- expect gifts at each call;
- “make an entrance”;
- look or act bored while the parents are conversing with the boy;
- excuse her family's faults by excessive explanations;
- seem too glad to see him.

**QUERY:** What form of entertainment should a young man offer a young lady?

**T**HE following were suggested as the most popular forms of recreation:

Automobile rides, dances, the theater and the motion pictures, parish and school social activities, sports such as golf, tennis, swimming, and roller skating, picnics and excursions, card games, dinners, music.

**QUERY:** What expenses should a young lady expect a young man to bear?

**T**HE vast majority of both the young men and the young women gave this answer: If the young man has invited the young woman out, he should bear all the expenses—tickets, transportation, refreshments, cor-sage for formal affairs.

Some qualified this answer slightly. If he cannot afford to take her out very often, then he should offer inexpensive forms of entertainment—taking long walks, visiting at home and with friends, attending band concerts or free musicals, playing tennis or going swimming.

Only a few mentioned cases in which the girl should pay a share of the expenses: If she is going steady with a young man who is out of work, she may bear half the expenses. If she does the inviting to something that requires tickets—for instance a formal school party—she furnishes the tickets, but she gives them to him to present at the door.

**QUERY:** Do you believe in girls' spending money on boys?

**F**OR every one who said yes, even with qualifications, nine said no without any qualifications.

Some mentioned circumstances that might alter the general rule: If a girl loses a bet, she pays her bet and bears the necessary expenses. If a boy is jobless, the girl may pay his way.

The general rule laid down was this:

Girls should not pay for evenings of entertainment with boys; girls offer as a return the hospitality of their homes.

Dutch treat, the sharing of expenses by the boy and the girl, was rejected overwhelmingly. Neither the young men nor the young ladies approved of the idea. Only a small minority saw any good in the Dutch treat.

**QUERY:** What rules would you set forth for proper conduct in automobile driving?

**T**HE following rules were offered by both the young men and the young women:

Keep your eyes on the road and not on your friend.

Both hands are needed on the wheel.

Speeding simply risks everyone's life.

Too many should not be crowded into a car.

It is smart to observe and follow traffic signals.

Girls should not be expected to sit on boys' laps.

Girls should not try to distract the driver.

Hence they should not ask too many questions.

They should not complain about the car or about the bumps in the road.

Cars were intended for transportation and not for "necking," as a means of conveyance and not for the furthering of romantic impulses.

Avoid secluded spots.

Alcohol and gasoline have never yet successfully mixed.



**QUERY:** Should a girl be content to go to an informal affair if she has to travel in a street car?

**F**OR every one who answered no, thirty answered emphatically yes. This seemed to express the vast consensus of opinion:

Certainly she should be content to go in a street car or bus. She makes her date feel at ease; she accepts his only means of transportation; not everyone has a car. She will date oftener if she has less false pride.

**QUERY:** What are good rules for ordering food when dining out?

**Y**OUNG men and women seem agreed on the general rules for ordering food. The rules they suggest are these:

Be considerate of the means of the person who is paying for the food.

Girls should not order a dinner if they have been invited to have lunch or a snack.

Exceeding the limit of the average allowance usually leads to a decrease in invitations.

If the girl is not sure of her escort's means, she can either order something inexpensive or ask him to order for her.

Young men are wise to make tentative suggestions, thus giving the young lady an idea of what they expect her to order.

The young man, not the young lady, gives the order to the waiter.

Hence the young lady gives her order to her escort. He in turn gives it to the waiter.

Even when the young man can afford it, the girl is wise not to order only the most expensive things.

The worst kind of bad manners is bad manners to a waiter; he cannot retaliate without being in danger of losing his position. Be courteous to waiters.

Do not ask for things that are not on the menu.

Comments on food should be confined to approval. Only the one who is paying for the meal has a right to comment unfavorably on the food.

Never be ashamed to let your escort know that it is a day of fast or abstinence.

**QUERY:** Give some rules of conduct at a dance.

**T**HE following rules were recommended by young people:

The first, middle, and last dances belong to your partner of the evening.

A girl should dance with any respectable person of her acquaintance who asks her to dance. Only the best of reasons should make her refuse. If for some good reason she refuses, she should not immediately accept the dance with someone else.

Young people should be respectful to chaperons.

If he wishes to dance with other girls, a boy should see to it that his partner has a number of men with whom to dance.

A young woman should not neglect her escort for another man.

It is bad taste to dance all evening with the same person.

A girl should not cross the dance floor alone.

Courtesy to each and all of one's partners is the general rule.

A girl does not dance with a boy unless she has been formally introduced to him.

Cheek-to-cheek dancing is bad manners. Young people should dance correctly, hold themselves erect, be neither too close nor too far away from the partner, and not rest their head on the shoulder of the partner.

Boys soon find out and dislike a girl who steals another girl's dances.

A man should always make satisfactory apologies if he is late in claiming a promised dance.

If the dance floor is crowded, fancy steps are a nuisance and a danger.

Young people should not leave the dance floor or the environs of the dance floor until it is time to go home.

Neither party should wander off with someone else.

Ladies and gentlemen are never boisterous or conspicuous. They can be pleasant, cheerful, and the best of company without becoming cheap and annoying to others.

No lady or gentleman becomes intoxicated at a party.

Smoking and dancing at the same time is extremely bad manners.

The lady should make the first move toward going home.

A decent young man will not insist on a good-night kiss.

**QUERY:** What do you consider good manners in church?

**T**HE young people indicated that good manners in church are based on reverence and devotion and a faith in the living presence of God. God is a king, and we should treat Him as such. Particular rules suggested were these:

When at Mass, use a missal.

Be prompt for all church services.

Stay until the services are at an end.

Kneel, rise, and sit properly.

When the priest is talking, refrain from reading a prayer book.

Pay attention to the services and not to the fashions.

Modest dress is the correct dress.

Do not sit in the end of the pew and force people to crawl over you.

Chewing gum is out of place in church.

Never seek a certain boy or girl in church in order to sit with him or her.

Don't bother with each other during services. Give your attention to God.

**QUERY:** What do you consider correct rules of good manners at parties in private homes?

**T**HESE are the chief rules that the young people saw fit to emphasize:

The guests should arrive with reasonable punctuality.

They should cooperate with the hostess's plans for entertainment; they should not decline to cooperate.

If you are accompanied by someone who is a stranger to the host or hostess, see to it that he or she meets host or hostess, chaperons, and guests.

Young men should ask their hostess to dance with them.

They should be agreeable and friendly to all the guests and help them enjoy themselves.

Guests should respect the property of their host or hostess. They should be careful of the furnishings. Any slight form of destruction of the furnishings is worse than bad taste. Hence no "hell-raising," no making a selfish display of oneself, no throwing of ashes on the carpet or placing wet glasses on furniture.

Rude and injurious tricks are not funny and are often most embarrassing to the victims.

It is bad taste to monopolize the conversation.

Raids on the icebox without the hostess's suggestion are in bad taste.

Parties should not be turned into "necking" parties.

Indecency in speech or action is gross and common and wrong.

Lights should not be tampered with, much less turned out.

Loudness of conduct in any form is bad manners.

On leaving, one should thank the hostess for the pleasant evening.

**QUERY:** What letters should a young person feel obliged to write?

**I**N answer to this query the young men and women offered the following as important enough to demand attention:

Thank-you letters; bread-and-butter letters; letters of condolence; letters of acceptance or regret; acknowledgment of gifts or favors; letters of appreciation for sympathy expressed; letters to parents every week when away; letters of congratulation; replies to business letters; correspondence with intimate friends; letters of introduction; letters to friends in the hospital, to older people who have been good to us, to teachers.

**QUERY:** What do you consider good rules for girls' correct dress?

**T**HESSE were the most frequent suggestions:

Dresses should be suited to the occasion, neat, simple and becoming, of good color combination, without gaudiness or somberness, unadorned by cheap jewelry, within the means of the wearer.

These dresses were rejected: masculine in style, conspicuous, sloppy, incorrectly fitted, too flashy, immodest in length, style, or cut.

The girls advised great care of the hair and not excessive make-up.

**QUERY: Give some good rules for men's correct dress.**

**T**O THIS the young people answered with the following suggestions:

Men's clothes should be suitable to the occasion, well pressed; sleeves should be rolled down, shoes shined, clothes in quiet color combinations; coats should be worn; neckties should be of quiet patterns.

It was suggested that "men on the whole could be a little cleaner than they are. Their fingernails need attention; often they are filthy." The importance of well-brushed hair and clean shaves and clean teeth was urged.

**QUERY: Give some good rules to follow when one is using the telephone.**

**T**HE following rules were offered as directions for those who find the telephone a normal part of their life:

Speak softly and politely over the phone.

Conversation should be cut to a reasonable length.

One should not monopolize the telephone.

Do not hang up while the other person is still talking.

The desires and needs and convenience of others should be considered when you are using the telephone.

Phone calls should be made at decent hours.

Mealtime is not a decent time for calling.

Unnecessary calls are often a nuisance.

Courtesy should be shown to the operator.

Courtesy should be shown when the wrong number is given.

None but the most informal dates should be made by phone.

The phone should not be used for jokes or guessing games.

Do not use the phone for gossip, especially on a party line.

Girls should not call boys except in real necessity.

One should not telephone another person too frequently.

The person who calls is the one who is supposed to end the conversation.

The receiver should not be slammed into place.

It is interesting to note that it was unanimously agreed that girls should not call boys on the phone except in cases of absolute necessity.

**QUERY:** Can you give some rules of conduct for dealing with elders who are not relatives?

**T**HE following were the rules most commonly suggested by the young people:

We owe to our elders courtesy, respect, and consideration.

It is bad manners to contradict them.

It is the worst kind of manners to laugh at them.

Young people should not act bored in the presence of their elders.

Older people deserve that mark of respect shown by young people's rising when older people enter the room.



If their elders are really old, younger people should assist them how and when they need it.

The general rule is to treat such elders as you would like your parents treated.

**QUERY:** Give some rules for conduct in public places.

**T**HESE rules were offered:  
Speak in a moderate tone of voice and avoid seeming loud and conspicuous.

Always be polite to clerks, employees, and others who serve you.

Running on the street or walking four abreast is bad manners.

In places of public entertainment promptness is a courtesy that should be observed.

Lounging around to gape at others is bad form.

It is considered bad taste to eat in public places that are not meant for eating.

Yawning, sneezing, coughing should be suppressed as much as possible.

Well-bred people do not push and jostle in a crowd.

**QUERY:** Can you suggest some rules of conduct for school?

**T**HESE were some of the suggestions offered:

In school respect authority.

Loyalty should be given to one's class.

Since the school does not belong to you, marking desks, destroying property, wasting materials are wrong.

Attentiveness is the courtesy paid to one's teachers.

One can at least try to look attentive and awake.

Punctuality is essential.

Membership in a clique is a handicap in life.

One should—honestly—help less fortunate students.

The wise young person is friendly to new students.

The decent student respects the books, papers, notebooks of others.

Slouching in one's place is bad manners.

It is worse manners to sponge off one's classmates for books, supplies, and the like.

Cheating is bad manners and bad morals.

### POSTSCRIPT

So here are the rules of conduct that these thousands of young people offer to themselves and to others. We present them just as they wrote them to us.

We cannot help thinking wistfully about what a beautiful and attractive place the world would become if any measurable part of these rules was observed.

May Christ the Gentleman and Mary the Lady give our young people the strength to be gentle and the courage to be kind and the thoughtfulness needed to express Christian charity in terms of good manners.

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