

# BARROOM Etiquette & More

By Muriel Robb

I hope no one is offended by this title. It was my husband's idea.

I read a piece on "*Barroom Etiquette*," and thought I didn't even know there was such a thing as *barroom etiquette*. But I got to thinking, it does make sense because in any group or gathering of people there are certain rules of expected behavior. But the title Barroom Etiquette is just title, I don't plan on visiting any barrooms.

So I will leave the etiquette to your imagination. But in life there *is* certain conduct that makes life a whole lot better. We certainly see a change and lowering of standards, looks, manners and conduct all which suggest we need a renewal of everyday "common" sense manners. Simple things we have lost in our society.

How about a "thank you" when someone opens or holds a door for you, steps to the side and allows you to pass. The server at the restaurant deserves respect. And if they are not as cheerful as you think they should be, that is the time to show your conduct as a gentleman or lady. After all, maybe the server is having their own hard time and issues in life. Of course, I guess they really could be a rude obnoxious jerk, but again, maybe their wife or husband was just diagnosed with cancer, maybe their child died, or walked out the door vowing never to speak to them again. Maybe they are having to

work two jobs. There are many shattering circumstances that could be causing them not to be as bubbly as they would like.

This is the time to show some kindness. Remember your children are watching you, and if you want to have a positive influence on their lives it is important, they respect you and your character. And they learn that from *watching* you. When you consider that they are watching you, *remember the way you treat your parents is how you are teaching them to treat you when you are older.*

When you receive a gift do you write a "Thank you!" Are you setting a good example for your children? At a party where several gifts are received of different costs, do you or your kids make a "big deal" over the big gift and the smaller ones get only a nod. Sometimes I have seen folks treat the cashier, neighbor, or barber with more kindness and manners than their own spouse. How you treat your husband or wife is very likely how your kids will treat their spouse.

For those reading this who are not married and looking for a wife or husband, observe how your potential wife or husband treats their parents. If they treat them with kindness and respect, that is the way they will treat you. But if they are gruff and unkind to their parents then you need to back off because **THAT** is the way they will treat *you* when the passion of love turns to everyday living.

You are a teacher, good or bad, to your

children. Your example says 100% more than your words. Are you invited somewhere and accept? Then do not be so thoughtless as to not show up. If you tell folks you are going to do something or go someplace - do it! Be there, show up and have some "class." That is good manners 101. Be careful of the feelings of others.

Too often people are very rude and insensitive to food servers, clerks, nurses, teachers and in general people in stores or on the streets. So often these are people who make our lives easier.

Sometimes they feel crushed, hurting feet, sore back, migraine headaches or perhaps just underpaid with a "boss" who is a jerk.

One day I was at a local dollar store with a long line ahead of me. People were getting rude, I heard one person say to another that the clerk was a moron and should just go home and let another *qualified* person do her job. Finally, she got some help and things sped

up. When I got to her, I made a simple, perhaps even a silly comment about having a "bad hair day." She started to cry and said her daughter just lost her baby. Another clerk came up and I was able to offer a shoulder to lean on for a few moments. I have lost babies and was able to listen to her and let her know I understood

her tears. So often people in grieving situations don't need someone to talk to them - just someone to listen to them.

Hopefully I was practicing some Christian love and compassion. After that, every time I go into the store, she always has a big smile for me. Recently she told me, that the other day someone said something about me and my husband being hateful racists. She said she told them they just didn't know us that Tom comes into the store, and he is always very polite with others, even watching

him one time hold the door open for a black women loaded down with bags. Benjamin Franklin said we should spend more time *finding virtue in others* and more time *removing vices we find in*



us. Checkup, take inventory of your manners, “Thank You,” “please,” “Opening doors,” “Yes, mam,” “Yes, Sir,” are all good habits that will bring positives returns to your life. Give up your seat to elders and if you are a man give your seat to a lady. (Especially if you are a youngster.) Have a little patience - don’t be in such a hurry. Don’t be one of those people that others must walk around carefully in fear you might explode. Be careful not to look for the worst in people. Don’t be a know it all. Do you have to be “right” all the time? What kind of teacher are you to those who are under your authority. Be sure to show real and sincere appreciation to others. I know that Tom, whenever he sees a home school family in the stores, he always goes up to the parents and gives them a quick compliment.

Remember people are watching you. They are watching your life,

your manner of speech, your attitudes, your words and the kindness you show others.

We also need to consider the love and grace given to us in our sinful state. That Christ loved us and while we were yet sinners, he died for us. As I close this, I want to say that I see many people who are jerks, yes, but I also see many people who are good and kind to others.

So, with that said, I hope you will see some value in my own version of Bar Room Etiquette. But don’t look to me for the perfect example. But I will keep trying.

Like my husband Pastor Robb often says. *“The trouble with being a preacher is we try to tell others how to live a perfect life knowing all along it is something we can’t do ourselves.”*

**END**