



## [2 Timothy 3:1-5](#)

(1) But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: (2) For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, (4) traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

*New King James Version*

The reason we have such a lack of courtesy in today's world can be found in [II Timothy 3:1-2](#), where the apostle Paul writes: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves. . . ." He goes on to list about eighteen more traits people will exhibit in the end time, but he leads the list with "lovers of themselves." If we are first and foremost in our lives a lover of ourselves, then we are *never* wrong. We are *always* first, and, we think, deservedly so! The left lane is ours! We are the direct opposite of "humble." We could not be courteous if we tried.

Consider verses 2-5 from the *Contemporary English Version*. Remember that Paul is speaking of the last days, and note how each of these traits relate to courtesy:

People will [love](#) only themselves and money. They will be proud, stuck-up, rude, and disobedient to their parents. They will also be ungrateful, godless, heartless and hateful. Their words will be cruel, and they will have no self-control or pity. These people will hate everything that is good. They will be sneaky, reckless, and puffed up with [pride](#). Instead of loving [God](#), they will love pleasure. Even though they will make a show of being religious, their religion won't be real. Don't have anything to do with such people.

Powerful words, indeed. Perhaps the reader thinks that I am making too much of the lack of courtesy around us. Maybe so. But it is something foundational, something

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (<http://www.theberean.org>)  
basic, to a Christian life. A humble and God-fearing person will naturally be courteous. If we esteem others greater than ourselves, we *will* be courteous. If we are striving to live in accordance with God's laws, we *will* be courteous.

So, does this mean that by simply saying “please” and “thank you,” we will be in God's Kingdom? No, it is not quite that easy, but it is a start! Conversely, it is probably safe to say that those who are impolite and rude will not like their reward at all. As the sign says, “Keep Right.”

— Mike Ford

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