

THANKSGIVING MANNERS



How are your manners? Will your conduct be socially acceptable at the Thanksgiving dinner table this week? Do you say please and thank you? Do you talk with your mouth full? And do you know what to do if there are more than three pieces of silverware near your plate?

It seems to me that people really do not care much about manners anymore. Casualness seems to rule our contemporary society and propriety can be perceived as prudishness. In reality it may not really matter which way you pass the potatoes or which fork you use for your salad, but what about the manner in which we interact with God? I'm afraid the casualness of our culture yields itself to a casualness with God. We fail to marvel at His majesty and honor His holiness. Indeed are we not faulty in our Thanksgiving manners?

Think with me for a moment about Psalm 105:1-5.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. ² Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders. ³ Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad. ⁴ Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually. ⁵ Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth,
(New American Standard Bible, Copyright 1995, The Lockman Foundation)

We find a theme of thanksgiving and focus on prayer in the opening lines. What follows are some Thanksgiving instructions to consider.

1. Share: Make known his deeds among the peoples (1b)
 Speak of all His wonders (2b)
 Glory or boast in His holy name (3a)
2. Sing: Sing praises and make sure those songs are directed to Him (2a)
3. Celebrate: Let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad (3b)
4. Seek: Daily depend on the Lord's strength and enjoy His company (4)
5. Survey: Reflect on God's wondrous miracles and marvelous messages (5)

This Thanksgiving season let us consider what God would think of our manners. Are we rude and ungrateful, careless and casual or thoughtfully thankful?

Looking Up ...!
Pastor Chuck Circle