Many things come to mind when we think of being courteous.

2. The Elderly are to be honored.

   a. This means older people, if you don’t get the drift. The scriptures teach, “Rebuke not an elder, but exhort him as a father; the younger men as brethren:” (1Tim. 5:1) That does not mean an “Elder” in the church but an older man. The ESV states it “Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers.” It grates on my nerves to hear a young person address or talk to older people as their equals, showing no respect to their differences. 1Tim. 5:19 “Against an elder receive not an accusation, except at the mouth of two or three witnesses.” In some places in the south older people are addressed as “Uncle” or “Aunt” to show respect. Same respect goes for older women.

   b. This is doubly true of Elders in the Lord’s Church. “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor.” (1 Tim. 5:17) “Against an elder receive not an accusation, except at the mouth of two or three witnesses.” (1 Tim. 5:19) And in 1 Pet. 5:5, Peter said “Likewise, ye younger, be subject unto the elder. Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility.”

Publicly elders should be addressed as “Brother,” not by their first name. I have been friends with several elders, and in private conversation, I addressed by their first name, but I would never do so in public from the pulpit. They have a hard enough job in the first place, therefore should be shown the greatest of respect in public.

wordsradio@gmail.com
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