He's the Picture — We're the Frame!
Why do I have to comb my hair and be clean?

Why does Mommy remind me to sit up straight at the table and have good manners?
People need to see a reflection of what Jesus is like.

People can’t see Jesus, but they can see you. So Jesus needs you to be His face to the world.
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN FACE AND BODY.
YOU DON'T HAVE JESUS' PHYSICAL FACE,
BUT YOUR FACE AND ACTIONS CAN SHINE WITH HIS LOVE.
When people see you shine with Jesus’ love, they see what Jesus is like.

That’s what it means to be Jesus’ face.
Excuse me, ma'am. Would you like to have my seat?

Why, thank you! How kind.
IF YOU ARE LOVING AND COURTEOUS TO PEOPLE THEN THEY’LL UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS MUST LOVE AND CARE ABOUT THEM TOO.
IT’S IMPORTANT TO HAVE GOOD MANNERS, TO BE CLEAN AND TIDY, AND TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS!

Please pass the salt.

Of course.
By practicing consideration, courtesy, and good personal care habits (which are a part of courtesy), we make Jesus happy. When He was on earth, Jesus was loving and considerate. That’s how He wants us to be too. The Bible says, “Let us love one another, for love comes from God” (1 John 4:7 NIV).
BY BEING LOVING TO OTHERS, WE ARE SHOWING OTHERS WHAT JESUS IS LIKE.

What happy, polite children they are. ...
IF YOU HAVE BAD MANNERS, OR YOU ARE UNTIDY, THEN IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR OTHERS TO SEE JESUS’ LOVING SPIRIT IN YOU.

Oh dear.
these children need a bath. …
Imagine you have a beautiful painting of flowers that you want to hang on your wall.

You have a choice of two frames to put the painting in—a nice-looking frame and one with chipped wood and flaking paint.

If you put it in the nice-looking frame, then you and others will look at the picture and enjoy its beauty.
But if you choose to put the painting in the not-so-nice-looking frame, no one would want to look at the painting very much, because the frame will make the picture not look nearly as pretty.

The painting didn’t change; it’s just the frame you put it in.
That’s what good manners are for—showing the loving face of Jesus to others.

Even if you have a smiling, loving face, it’s harder for people to notice under a sloppy frame of bad manners.

Let’s all be pleasant, loving pictures for Jesus in a frame of good manners!

Can you think of tips on how to have good manners?

S&S link: Character Building: Values and Virtues: Courtesy-1b
Authored by Christi Lynch. Illustrations by Leila Shae. Design by Stefan Merour.
Copyright © 2010 by The Family International