

# Inspirations

*Every action done in company ought to be done with some sign of respect to those that are present.*

George Washington

*Civility does not mean mere outward gentleness of speech but an inborn gentleness and desire to do the opponent good.*

Gandhi

*Distrust and resentment corrode the ties of civility; suspicion and hostility tempt men to act in ways they would otherwise avoid.*

John Rawls

*CIVILITY IS NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. NEVER NEGOTIATE OUT OF FEAR. BUT NEVER FEAR TO NEGOTIATE.*

John F. Kennedy

*It is possible to disagree without being disagreeable.*

Sandra day O'Connor

Justice  
Democracy  
Tolerance Respect  
Citizenship Courtesy  
Fairness Politics  
Civility  
Ethics

## *Civility is:*

*Considerateness*

*Courtesy*

*Decency*

*Modesty*

*Politeness*

*Respect*

*Tact*



[www.fresnostate.edu/artshum/ethicscenter](http://www.fresnostate.edu/artshum/ethicscenter)

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# The Civility Project

FRESNO STATE

Ethics Center

# The Virtues of Civility

Civility is self-restraint in a context of liberty. In its fundamental moral aspect, it is based upon respect for the other.

Andrew Fiala, *"The Virtue of Civility"*

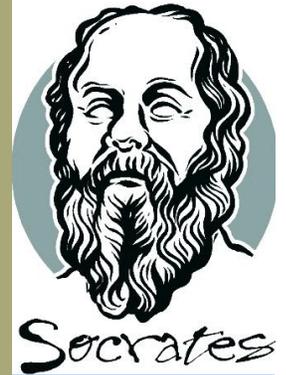
*Teach them better, if you can. If not, remember that kindness, grace, and goodwill are given for moments such as these.*

Marcus Aurelius

*Know  
Thyself*

*Nothing in  
Excess*

*It is hard to  
be good*



1. **Agreeableness:** go along when possible with what others propose
2. **Big-Heartedness:** welcome others with hospitality and praise
3. **Compassion:** put yourself in the place of the other
4. **Curiosity:** express an interest in what others say, think, and believe
5. **Deference:** do not insist upon yourself but defer to others when appropriate
6. **Dignity:** behave with self-respect; avoid belittling oneself and others
7. **Eloquence:** find the right word and avoid degrading language
8. **Forgiveness:** realize that everyone fails (including yourself)
9. **Gratitude:** express thanks for a benefit received
10. **Honesty:** say what is true and avoid exaggeration
11. **Integrity:** behave the same way in public and private; aim for consistency
12. **Justice:** give to each person what is owed, earned, and merited
13. **Kindness:** be kind and generous and considerate of others
14. **Liberality:** be generous and open-minded
15. **Mindfulness:** attend to what everyone says (including yourself)
16. **Modesty:** minimize self-assertion and admit your imperfections
17. **Patience:** allow others to speak and think before you speak
18. **Reserve:** do not be intrusive or meddlesome
19. **Respect:** give respect to others and expect it in return
20. **Sincerity:** mean what you say and say what you mean; avoid hypocrisy and gossip
21. **Tact:** minimize costs embarrassment for others
22. **Temperateness:** do not express anger, lust, ambition, or greed
23. **Vulnerability:** admit your needs, lacks, fears, and failures
24. **Wonder:** admit ignorance, doubt, confusion, and awe
25. **Yielding:** allow others to shine—do not be unyielding
26. **Zest:** be vigorous and life-affirming without zealotry