

Church mice games

What is proper Bible (Christian) etiquette? My wife is always suspicious of men who shake with soft hands. Where has the firm handshake gone while looking you in the eye, man to man?

Shouldn't Christian men have soft gentle hands? What about the soft-spoken men who never get mad or ever raise their voice? Should Christians be kind, gentle and polite as a Danish nun? I know people who can quote the Bible better than a cursing drunken sailor cusses. They know the verses and swear by them. Are these people more holy than others? There was a man who stated that he did not knowingly sin anymore. Has he cornered the market on goodness because he's Christian?

I just want to know? There was a big man who had very large hands. The first night I met him, he took those big mitts and warmed my frozen hands. He was a rough man with a loving heart. This same person was quick to challenge the pastorate to do better. His wife was the church secretary. In time, that church let her go due to financial constraints. They hired a new and cheaper girl. My large friend did not appreciate the lack of commitment from that church towards his wife. Is he a good Christian man or a rough stock Christian wannabe? Was that church respecting the Lord when they made decisions based on money and not love, respect, and honor?

I know, it's not always as it seems. Churches to need to keep a tight belt, right? Godly men should be serving and silent, right? There has not been a church I've attended where the top elders are not rich. It never happens because pastors are trained to find wealth anchors. Is it biblical, proper etiquette, and smart? Is it the way the Lord intended? Do I bring this up as a disgruntled pew sitter? Actually no, I just want people to see that church plays the corporate game as well as Bill Gates. That God has little to do with the Christian charade. I believe that

Christian etiquette is good as long as it's not being used to hide the real you. Mice do know how to run around behind the walls.

What does God have to say? Matthew 23:27 *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.”* It's interesting that Jesus was not a synagogue insider. He wasn't an elite like the Pharisee or Sadducee. Jesus didn't grow up as a pastor's kid. It's not even clear if his parents were regular synagogue attenders. Yet, Jesus knew what goes on in the hearts of those behind church closed doors. As God's Son, He had watched them all from afar. God wants good hearts over good looks and clean tassels on robes. God probably wanted the rough hands of fishermen over the soft hands of priests.

Jesus didn't even pick one religious' man within His twelve disciples. Ecclesiastics 7:20 *“Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.”* Paul was a Pharisee. He knew the religious game. It should be a warning when he wrote Romans 3:10-12 *“As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”* The righteous Paul learned the hard way that God is not impressed with lofty religious etiquette. He wants action and heartfelt Christian living the right way.

So, what is the right way? Ask a thousand pastors and you will get two thousand different answers. There will be a lot of pausing and soft hand sweating. Yes, it's speaking in tongues. It's all in the fruit we bear. Certainly, God is impressed with our faith. Works has its place. The prosperity Gospel has its merits. Yet, the little church mouse games continue while hiring the PK kids and excluding those with a seedy past. Are the worship teams in big churches beautiful? The best of the best. Are church ministry leaders picked based on bank accounts and career choices?

Then there is the outside world. I had a friend challenge me on my Bible etiquette. He didn't see a Bible fearing man in my daily actions. Now, this was also a man who did not believe in God and has never darkened the door of a church. What does he know about goodness and religion? Yet, he had a position. He had thoughts on the matter. How could the unchurched know what the church should look and act like? It's called general revelation. God created it all. He made each one of us and owns the church. Deep inside each one of us is the fingerprint of God. We know goodness when we see it. We know that miracles are not human. Somehow and some way we know what morals should look like.

Ok, I am a spark plug on social media. I call out bad leadership in my country. I will challenge pastors on playing silly church mouse games. Martin Luther was inside the church pastorate. His passion for God got the best of him. He wrote 95 scathing theses based on the state of the church. The current Pope decided to put a price in Martin's head rather than discuss the concerns. Oh, his beef was over money, power, and hypocritical church games. Imagine that! Martin and I are cut from the same cloth. Christian cloth? I want good church etiquette. I do! Should I act better in public some times? Yes, I should! Yet, I feel that my zeal for the Lord is not that much different than naked dancing King David or an irate monk hammering theses on a church door. I'm Christian with all my faults, sins, and outspoken words. It's interesting that I make church mice and some unsaved people so uncomfortable being real.