

One of the phrases that is often associated with being a Knight of Columbus is being a Catholic Gentleman. And that makes a lot of sense. We often try to elaborate on the Catholicism part of that phrase which, of course, is perfectly appropriate. But what about the Gentleman part? What does that really mean?

In the old days, when one wanted to find out information about a particular subject (such as what does it mean to be a gentleman) you would go to the library — like the Alhambra Public Library in the San Gabriel Valley. There you could peruse the bookshelves and multiple dictionaries to do your research in the quiet wooden canyons of the library rooms. And after, if one was so inclined, you could visit the large pond on the library grounds in back and admire the multi-colored Koi fish.

Today, if you want basic practical advice you search the New Library, the internet. Which I did.

So, Wikipedia states that the word gentlemen originally denoted a “well-educated man from a good family.” It has come to mean “a man who demonstrates good and courteous conduct.”

On another website entitled “Becoming a Gentleman” a blogger advises “always have clean nails” and “never wear white tube socks.”

Wiki-How has an article entitled “How to Be a Gentlemen.” Among other things it counsels:

- Good hygiene is a must: don't just use soap – scrub yourself.
- Be prepared to make statements or ask questions of courtesy such as “how was your day?”
- In public, don't belch or pass gas.
- Give girls a little extra respect.

-There are some things you shouldn't talk to girls about – especially if they are not into sports or video games.

-Always have a straight posture – nobody likes a sloucher

-If you decide to fight someone, keep the posture straight, even if your rival is taller than you. Be reasonable. Never use weapons such as guns, knives and the like, as this kind of 'chivalry' is from the old days and you might end up seriously damaging yourself.

And finally...

-Remember, if a girl doesn't respect you for being a true gentleman then she's not worth it.

Another article, "[50 rules to being a Gentleman](#):" includes the following advice:

-Wear a belt; it's called underwear for a reason.

-Try not to go straight to the Sports Section of the newspaper.

-Don't just talk the talk.

- If you initiate a dinner date, then you should expect to pay.

-Avoid unnecessary use of expletives in public, especially if you're trying to **impress** a woman

-Always put your napkin in your lap for dinner; never stuff it in your shirt.

-Treat older women as if they were your own mother.

-Brush your teeth, gargle, or have a breath mint before getting up close and personal.

-If you want your woman to be a devil, treat her like an angel.

-Even if you're having a one night stand with a woman... be respectful.

So, with that information I feel that I am better prepared to be a true gentleman.

However, I still miss visiting the library with the Koi fish in back.