

Dear Aunt Winnie,

I get so depressed over how people treat each other these days, especially the young people. They seem like they have no respect for anybody. What do you think the solution is to this?

Sincerely,  
Disgusted by Rudeness

Disclaimer-The opinions expressed by Aunt Winnie are by no means professional nor do they reflect Aging Services, Inc. beliefs or ideas. Her opinions are strictly for reader enjoyment only!



Dear Disgusted by Rudeness,

Just to set the record straight, I am very opinionated and just like I tell my daughter-in-law, she always has the option to take it or leave it, (Trust me, she has left it more than she has taken it!).

I might be hard headed but I have had some sense knocked into me a time or two so I realize that we each have our own ideas on how the world is and how it should be!

My take on it is this... those kids that are behaving badly, have parents who most likely behaved badly, who also had parents that probably behaved badly. I think we just notice it a lot more because the world is a whole lot smaller than what it was even 50 years ago! With constant TV coverage, widespread internet and even smart phones ready to record at the touch of a finger, all give us a continuous flow of information about everything and everybody!



Even the common man now has a voice via twitter, facebook and forums. While you get a lot of nice people posting things about kitties, puppies and babies, you also get a lot of angry upset people who have no qualms about being rude or saying mean things. Some actually enjoy making other people upset.

Look at it this way... Instead of being rude to 20 people standing in line at a store, you can instantly be rude to 2000 people who have contact with your facebook page. This is like finding the mother lode of gold for people that enjoy sowing chaos.

Speaking of gold....in my day, as well as many of my peers reading this, there was such a thing called the "Golden Rule". My mother believed that if she recited it to us at least once a day it would sink in. In my own little fantasy world, I would like to think my mother is smiling down from heaven thinking how well her children have turned out. In reality, I have to frequently shine up my tarnished Golden Rule.

What is the "Golden Rule"? While many would associate the Golden Rule with the Christian religion, it actually spans across many religions and cultures. It is called the "Law of Reciprocity". It's definition is: To treat others the way you want to be treated.

In order for society to change, it has to start at the grass roots. Each person alive is responsible for abiding by the "Law of Reciprocity". There will always be those that refuse to adhere but I am a firm believer in awareness.

Once people realize living by the "Golden Rule" brings peace, harmony and general good feelings they are more inclined to adapt it. So a word to the wise...if you are on facebook, twitter or any other form of mass media conversations, start sending pictures of kitties, puppies or babies. It's a cure all!

Sincerely,  
Aunt Winnie

I'm accustomed to Internet forums where rudeness and incivility are the rule, where too many people seem to take pride in their insults.

~Bryan Burrough (Besides being an accomplished author he has worked many years as a financial journalist.)