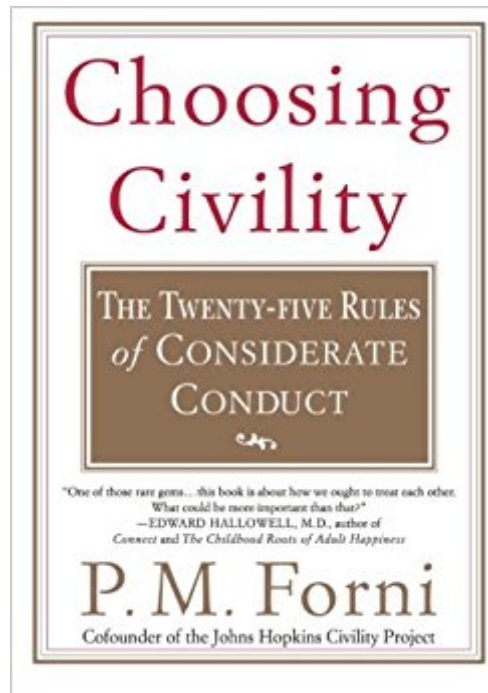




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# Choosing Civility: The Twenty-five Rules Of Considerate Conduct



## Synopsis

Most people would agree that thoughtful behavior and common decency are in short supply, or simply forgotten in hurried lives of emails, cellphones, and multi-tasking. In *Choosing Civility*, P. M. Forni identifies the twenty-five rules that are most essential in connecting effectively and happily with others. In clear, witty, and, well...civilized language, Forni covers topics that include: \* Think Twice Before Asking Favors\* Give Constructive Criticism\* Refrain from Idle Complaints\* Respect Others' Opinions\* Don't Shift Responsibility and Blame\* Care for Your Guests \* Accept and Give Praise Finally, Forni provides examples of how to put each rule into practice and so make life-and the lives of others-more enjoyable, companionable, and rewarding. *Choosing Civility* is a simple, practical, perfectly measured, and quietly magical handbook on the lost art of civility and compassion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Small but mighty new reference...the only book I can recommend to all audiences....P.M.

Forni deserves great acclaim for developing such potent yet easy to digest remedies for many of today's ills.”  
—Daniel Buccino, METAPSYCHOLOGY ONLINE  
“Choosing Civility is one of those rare gems one never expected to find but always hoped would appear.

Professor Forni writes with wit, force, and grace on a subject that has become all too hoity-toity.

Forni reclaims manners from the mantelpiece and grounds his advice in the details of everyday life.

This book is about how we ought to treat each other. What could be more important than

that?”  
—Edward Hallowell, M.D., author of *Connect* and *The Childhood Roots of*

Adult Happiness – “Choosing Civility is a beautiful book that lifts the spirit, warms the heart, and provides clear direction for a balanced life. Dr. Forni gently guides the reader to relationship insights that assure love, joy and meaningful friendship. Anyone interested in living a civil and worthwhile life should read this book.” – Arthur P. Ciaramicoli, Ed D., PhD, Author of The Power of Empathy

DR. P.M. FORNI is an award-winning professor of Italian Literature at Johns Hopkins University. In 2000 he founded The Civility Initiative at Johns Hopkins and over the years has continued to teach courses on the theory and history of manners. His book *Choosing Civility* (2002) has sold more than 100,000 copies. Reports on his work have appeared on The New York Times, The Times of London, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and The Los Angeles Times. He has been on a number of radio and television shows, including ABC's World News Tonight, CBS Sunday Morning and BBC's Outlook. For years he was a regular on-the-air contributor to the Baltimore NPR affiliate station and the nationally syndicated radio show The Satellite Sisters.

American society is too informal. The clothing is either way too informal for the occasion (like blue jeans at a funeral) or overly dressed at other occasions, such as job interviews or weddings. To go along with this, manners and politeness have plunged as well. Adults like myself actually need someone like this author to teach us concepts that aren't being taught or practiced anymore. What a shame that if parents aren't spending much time with teaching their children manners, neither are the public schools. P.M. Forni's first short chapters, which go into the philosophy of manners, would have been better put in an appendix at the end of the book. I didn't really enjoy the book until I got into the actual examples from everyday life. They make the concepts understandable.

This is a great book that tells you step by step how to be a decent person. It's hard to imagine that this isn't the "norm" that is taught through parents, but then you go out of your little pristine community and realize that there are some real jerks out there. I've really considered buying a case of these and handing them out when someone is being actively douchey.

*Choosing Civility* by P.M. Forni, is a book divided into three principle parts. The first and third part provide you with general concepts about civility and respect in personal and workplace relationships. The second part, instructs you on the dos and donts, on proper manners as you interact with people in different circumstances. Some of the topics in the first section of the book

are: Life and Relationships, What is Civility, and Happiness and the Mind to mention only a few. Some of the rule titles that Forni discusses are: Pay Attention, Listen, Speak Kindly, and Respect Even a Subtle "No" and others. The book, totalling 196 pages, is an easy read because chapters are short in length and the vocabulary is college level. Another great plus to the book is that it is extremely inexpensive. The scenarios and examples that the author gives to the reader are interesting, funny and realistic. The advice the author gives is practical, useful and contemporary. Forni also uses his own personal experiences to support his theories and findings from his travels, his teachings and his interactions with family members. Forni's style of writing makes the book more appealing to the reader and gives an opportunity for a connection. I was able to relate to many of the situations in the book and many of his statements made me aware of some of my own areas of weakness and gave me insight in ways to improve them. If you need a great book on civility that you could reference for work and personal relationships, Choosing Civility by P.M. Forni is a good choice.

A quick yet insightful read. Now more than ever, a timely reminder to choose to act considerately towards others. You'll find that the choice positively impacts you as well.

From the Foreward: "That civility is fundamental to the making of a good, successful, and serene life has been for me the most exciting discovery of the last several years. Talking about that discovery is both a privilege and a serious responsibility. It is also a bold move."

After reading the book Choosing civility: The twenty-five rules of considerate conduct by P.M. Forni, I learned all about the twenty-five rules of civility and was able to read Forni's lived experiences as well. It impacted my life in a good way after thinking about all the things I do wrong that turns into being uncivil. The book was 196 pages and was split into three parts, which consisted of forty-five chapters. I thought this book was an easy read since it was very relatable to everyday life. My three favorite rules after reading the book were don't speak ill, refrain from idle complaints, and think twice before asking for favors. This book is geared toward everyone since the topic can appeal to anyone and is not just geared toward a specific group. It was an interesting book that I took a lot of tips on civility, which does relate to what I am currently going through in my daily life. It was an interesting book and I took a lot away from it because I can relate the book to my everyday life. It takes the complex ideas of uncivil behaviors and puts it into terms the general public can understand thereby, bettering the understanding of civil norms. Understanding incivility is important

for everyone to know and what Forni makes is appealing to all audiences. In order to have the world be less uncivil people need to understand what it takes to be civil during different situations and this book definitely teaches you that.

P.M. Forni takes the art of Civility to an entirely new level. He has made it possible for everyone to understand the fundamental concepts of civility that are essential for a healthy life. Forni does this by providing easy to read rules and language as well as giving personal examples and stories that make it easy to relate. What I found most interesting about this book was self civility and having you think of how civil you actually are. Forni brings up things like being agreeable with one another and respecting others space and time. He talks about the importance of speaking kindly and being sure to acknowledge one another. Each rule has its own chapter that goes in dept about how it effects you and as society as a whole. What I enjoy most about this book was how he gave many different ways for us to achieve civil behavior. I took the rules as something you can work on as time goes along. This is not a onetime read, I know that I will keep it handy and use as a reference guide when I need to.

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