



## Qualities of A Gentleman

The following are the qualities which compromise a gentleman as defined by the handbook of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and serve as a similar standard for pledges of the Delta Phi Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity:

"Without a strict observance of a fundamental code of honor, no man, no matter how 'polished,' can be considered a gentleman. The honor of a gentleman demands the inviolability of his word and the incorruptibility of his principles..."

A Gentleman...

- does not discuss his family affairs in public
- does not speak more than casually about his wife or girlfriend
- does not go to a lady's house if affected by alcohol
- does not lose his temper or exhibit fear, embarrassment, or hate in public
- does not discuss the merits or demerits of a lady
- does not mention names exactly as he avoids the mention of what things cost
- does not borrow money from a friend, except in dire need; money borrowed is a debt of honor and must be repaid as soon as possible
- does not display his wealth, money, or possessions
- does not put his manners on and off. He treats people with courtesy, no matter what their social position may be.
- does not so much as lay a finger on a lady
- does not 'lick the boots above him' nor 'kick the face below him' on the social ladder
- does not take advantage of another's helplessness or ignorance and assumes that no gentleman will take advantage of him
- A gentleman respects the reserves of others, but demands that others respect those that are his.
- A gentleman can become what he wills to be.