How do manners affect our humanity?

If 'ill-mannered' is rarely, if ever, used uncritically what gives the word manners such good connotations? Are there limits to the positive contribution they make to our lives?

Feelings

- How important are the sensibilities we possess which are culturally dependent - e.g. always using utensils when eating?
- How does sensitivity to another's feelings compare with honesty when e.g. showing appreciation for a gift?

Asymmetries

- To what extent should the company we're in affect our courteousness, e.g. how long should we apologise if we seem to be the only one doing so?
- Similarly how apt is modesty through using words like 'please' and 'thank you' if they aren't the norm?

Ethics

- When does easing deprivation change from being moral to being mannered, e.g. is giving to a beggar different to giving up a seat?
- If asked to participate in something we consider wrong, can we - or should we - always consider manners when declining?
- What should we make of overt disquieting behaviour outside of specific protests, e.g. the punk rock movement?