

# The Christian's Personality

1 Peter 3:8

## Introduction:

- A. Sometimes too much attention is paid to personality.
  - 1. Truth or error often determined by personality of speaker.
  - 2. Personality often tailored to promote popularity.
- B. Sometimes too little attention is given to personality.
  - 1. Bad behavior often excused by "that is just their personality."
  - 2. Not enough effort of Christians to conform their personalities to the will of God.
- C. Good personality traits are not peculiar to Christians, but Christians must work to develop them.

## Discussion:

### I. Christians Should Have a *Friendly* Personality.

- A. "Courteous" in the text is from *philo* (friendly) and *phronos* (mind)
- B. Reasons why people often are not friendly or courteous.
  - 1. Too busy.
  - 2. Too pre-occupied.
  - 3. Too self-centered (Do take note if others not friendly - Prov. 18:24)

### II. Christians Should Have a *Cheerful* Personality.

- A. Christians have every reason to be cheerful or rejoice (Phil. 4:4-7)
  - 1. The nearness of the Lord (v. 5).
  - 2. The privilege of prayer (v. 6).
  - 3. The promise of peace (v. 7)
  - 4. The hope in Christ. (Rom. 12:12).
- B. Moods can be affected by several factors.
  - 1. Physical problems – need to try to be cheerful and understand others with problems.
  - 2. Purely sour disposition.

### III. Christians Should Have a *Compassionate* Personality.

- A. Text uses the words "pitiful" – not one pitied, but one who pities.
- B. Compassionate toward hardships of others (cf. Matt. 14:14)
  - 1. Physical and emotional (Rom. 12:15)
  - 2. Spiritual (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:20, 21).

### IV. Christians Should Have a *Reasonable* Personality.

- A. "Moderation" in Phil. 4:5 means "very reasonable" or "sweet reasonableness."
- B. Easy to deal with – agreeable (cf. Jas. 3:17)
- C. Not irrational nor moody.

### V. Christians Should Have a *Dependable* Personality.

- A. In doctrinal matters (Eph. 4:14)
- B. In any matter (Jas. 1:8).

### VI. Christians Should Have a *Sincere* Personality.

- A. Should be sincere in all we do (Tit. 2:7; 2 Cor. 8:8; Phil. 1:16).
- B. Insincerity in other personality traits are often evident – it shows.
  - 1. Obvious it is a "put on" for public consumption.
  - 2. Often assume personality that is not the real self.
  - 3. The "holy tone" in public worship.

### VII. Christians Should Have a *Growing* Personality.

- A. Are to grow in grace (graciousness of manner) (2 Pet. 3:18).
- B. Every characteristic I have mentioned is subject growth.

## Conclusion:

- A. If you are a Christian, develop and improve these traits, may need personality change.
- B. If not a Christian, become one, if already have traits keep them, if not develop them.