

## Moral Guidelines (8)

### Ephesians 5:22

**Intro**—(Remember)—Fruit is what the Holy Spirit produces in the life of a Christian.

New nature with new power and new attitudes.

This doesn't mean—old nature is eliminated.

Challenge—New nature control and direct your life.

“To do this a Christian must control his old nature, and allow the power of the new nature to overcome the old life.”

“The whole point is that we need the Spirit of God to be released in our lives. This is simply a matter of decisions. The Spirit-filled life is yielding every decision to the control of the Spirit.”--What you wear, the way you talk, think, act, and behave.

#### 1. Peace

**Definition:** Refers to the tranquility of mind that comes from the Christian's saving relationship with Christ/ Bi-product of love

##### A) Something only a believer knows.

Fruit of the Spirit.

**Phil. 4:7** “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.”—Not fully describable, beyond human comprehension.

##### B) Something only God supplies.

Early disciples—John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

**It has once been said—two types of peace a believer experiences:**

##### A) Judicial peace.—Eternally—war

Did you know? Before you were saved you were an enemy of God? Romans 5:10

**Romans 5:1** “Therefore having been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Romans 5:9** “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

**(Key Point)** The Christian is justified by the vicarious substitution of Jesus Christ for sinners on the cross.

Vicarious—Suffering endured by one person in the stead of another.

Justified—the moment you get saved.

**Matthew 6:34** “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

**Eph. 2:14a** “For He himself is our peace....”

##### B) Experiential peace.--Daily

**Col. 3:15** “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts....”

Like love—not based on circumstance.

“There is absolutely no reason a Christian should be anxious or afraid.”

Illustration: Peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but is rather the confidence that He is there with you always.

#### 2. Longsuffering.

**Definition:** Has to do with tolerance and longsuffering that endure injuries inflicted by

others (persecution), the calm willingness to accept situations that are irritating or painful.

**Longsuffering**—courageous endurance without quitting.

Ever feel like just giving up?

**A) Patient in Deed.**

**I Corinthians 15:58** “..be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain.”

What we do—witnessing, ministry. Simply philosophy. Changes, Transforms, Reach.

**B) Patient in Dealing with others.**

**II Peter 3:9** “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Not quick to judge/ lash out—love/ condemn, commend.

Who we face—Families/ children/ parents

Will they ever get it?

**C) Patient in Distress.**

**Romans 12:12** “Patient in tribulation..”—pressure, anguish, trouble.

What we experience.—circumstance, condition.

**D) Patient in Delay.**

**Isaiah 40:31** “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength...”

**Isaiah 49:23** “For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.”

What we desire—goal, marriage, career, etc.

Weakest moments—Answers to your prayers do not come, when nothing changes.

Winning moments—Thanks Lord, but what about this situation—hasn’t changed.

**Romans 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

**Ecclesiastes 7:8b** “The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.” Prov. 3:5, 6

Patience builds spiritual character/faith.

**(Key Point)** God has your best in mind!

Illustration: Jadyn

**3. Kindness**

**Definition:** Relates to tender concern for others. Produced by H.S.Story: Me, first in ministry—didn’t like students.

Wimp, Genuine desire of a believer to treat others gently, as the Lord treats them.

**Question:** Where do Christians who are quick tempered, easily offended, and unkind (God-given right to be mean or ugly) get off believing that is acceptable behavior? Rudeness/ kindness.

**Proverbs 11:17** “The merciful man does good for his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.”

**Kindness is part of:**

**A) Believer’s conduct.**

Something that is to be carried out!It really is an expected behavior from the Lord!

**Col. 3:12, 13** “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on**.....longsuffering;

**bearing** with one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also **must** do.”

[For] bearing—to hold oneself up against, to put up with.—not who I am!!!

### **B) Believer’s character.**

It’s a believer’s nature/ defines your personality/ Should be—one of your highest qualities.

Kindness:

- Separates us from the world.
- Not a trait familiar in the world.
- Is a symbol of our maturity.
- Is a symbol of a changed life.
- Is far reaching.
- Is yielding yourself to others.
- Produces a testimony/ example that only God get the glory from.

We’re to be kind when other won’t be, even to the most offensive, and even our enemies.

**Luke 6:35** “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”

- This type of behavior could win them to Christ.

Easy thing—do the hard thing, the right thing, the supernatural thing.

What is an example of kindness?

**(Key Point)** Kindness is not something we do, it’s who we are!

Often been said that, “nice guys finish last.”

Closing story: House cleaned at D-Now.