

Graciousness

I. The DEFINITION

- A. **Gracious.** The quality of being pleasing and attractive; possessing charming and winning grace especially in manner; of character: likely to find favour; of actions: winning favour or goodwill; being courteous and polite with especially condescending courtesy; being merciful and compassionate; possessing grace or moral excellence; endowed with grace or charm of appearance; in a limited sense being graceful and elegant; characterized by kindness and courtesy especially being condescendingly kind, indulgent, and beneficent to inferiors.
- B. **Odious.** A quality and manner deserving of hatred, hateful; causing or exciting hatred or repugnance, disagreeable, offensive, repulsive; exciting odium.
- C. A gracious person is never offensive or haughty, always discreet and modest, and is delightfully charming in every way. They are usually described as a “lovely person”; and they would never behave themselves in a disagreeable way. They have many friends, though they do not pursue them or flaunt them.
- D. They are always kind, and you feel safe and accepted in their presence. Instead of the discomfort and work of talking to some, they put you at ease completely and instantly.

II. The IMPORTANCE

- A. A gracious woman retains honour – she is always respected, valued, appreciated (Pr 11:16).
- B. But there is also an odious woman (person) who provokes hatred and repugnance (Pr 30:23).
- C. A good name and loving favour from others – graciousness – is better than riches (Pro 22:1).
- D. When I am asked what quality attracts others, I will always say graciousness (Prov 22:11).
- E. As Christians we should be like our Lord Jesus Christ – He was Graciousness, as His Father.
- F. A beautiful woman without graciousness is as a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout (Pro 11:22).
- G. Pain in human relationships is always caused by one or both parties lacking in graciousness.

III. The EXAMPLE

- A. Our Lord Jesus Christ – the perfect Man – should always be our chief goal in character.
 - 1. Jesus grew in favour with God and man – graciousness with godliness (Luke 2:52).
 - 2. Jesus had grace poured into His lips, which is a great key of graciousness (Ps 45:2).
 - 3. When Jesus returned to His home town, the people heard His graciousness (Lu 4:22).
- B. Samuel also developed such a spirit – he had graciousness with godliness (I Samuel 2:26).
- C. Daniel had an excellent spirit without fault or error – he was very faithful (Dan 5:12; 6:3-4).
- D. David was incredibly gracious long before he ever entered the palace – God had taught him.
 - 1. He was a man after God’s own heart; therefore he possessed the graciousness of god.
 - 2. All the people accepted and loved him and set his name high (I Sam 18:5,14-16,30).
 - 3. Jonathan, who was to be king, loved him as his own soul (I Sam 18:1-4 cp Pr 22:11).

IV. The SOURCE

- A. The Holy Spirit leads and convicts people to be gracious – by His fruit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- B. The Holy Scriptures describe the character traits and virtues that should characterize saints.
- C. You can never get started until you acknowledge your sin and repent for odious conduct.
 - 1. I can easily divide this church in half with those having an abrasive edge on one side.
 - 2. The temperaments are most useful in forcing people to accept verses for them.
 - 3. Half of those chosen with the abrasive edge will deny and argue about themselves.
 - 4. All that matters is how God and others view you. Your opinion is only selfish pride.
 - 5. A great difficulty in ever changing is the stubbornness of most to admit their faults.

V. The PRACTICE

- A. Exalt listening over speaking, if you talk a lot. An excellent spirit spareth words (Pr 17:27).
- B. Speak always with grace, seasoned with salt (Col 4:6; Eph 4:29; Eccl 10:12; Prov 16:13).
- C. A pure heart provides gracious speech, so keep thy heart with all diligence (Pr 22:11; 31:26).
- D. Don't allow even a little folly, which impulsive spirits will try to justify (Ecclesiastes 10:1).
- E. Exalt mercy over judgment. Manliness or holy zeal is not always condemning (James 2:13).
- F. Learn each of the fifteen aspects of charity and practice them at all times (I Cor 13:4-7).
- G. To the odious person, compassion and affection is flattery and effeminate; but they err.
- H. Never . . . that means never . . . be interested in presenting your own opinion (Phil 2:3-4).
- I. Meekness is a great virtue we must seek – the lack of interest or effort in self-promotion.
- J. If you are given to moodiness, you need to rule your spirit; graciousness does not allow it.
- K. Admire and esteem gentleness rather than despise it as effeminate and weak (Gal 5:22-23).
- L. Practice with your wife and children, for you will never be otherwise consistently.

GRACIOUS

Proverbs 11:16

Sweet
Charming
Patient
Merciful
Pleasant
Comfortable
Agreeable
Obliging
Enjoyable
Cheerful
Kind
Smiles
Courteous
Compassionate
Gentle
Relaxed
Soft
Warm
Flexible
Thoughtful
Great Listener
Very Thankful
Considerate
Grateful for correction
Listens with eyes, ears, mind, and body
Calm and collected
Remembers good details past and present about others
Willing to do anything cheerfully
Modest and self-debasing
Forgives instantly and fully
Genuinely interested in another
Thoughtfully kind to never offend
Accommodating
Meek and reticent about praise
“You look very nice this morning.”

ODIOUS

Proverbs 30:21-23

Sour
Irritating
Impatient
Critical
Strained
Stressful
Opinionated
Assuming
Endurable
Dour
Perfunctory
Sober
Insensitive
Businesslike
Harsh
Uptight
Hard
Cool
Stubborn
Efficient
Great Talker
Barely Thankful
Inconsiderate
Defensive against correction
Thinking of what to say when she gets to talk
Jesting, babbling, and talking to fill gaps
Preoccupied with self and her present and future
Grudgingly participates or rejects activity
Confident and proud of self
Unforgiving or grudgingly so
Preoccupied with self
Tends to be abrupt and inconsiderate
Demanding, asking, expecting
Expects and absorbs praise
“Are you ill? You look somewhat sickly.”

“That is a beautiful dress.”
“Those candies were the nicest gift.”
“My husband is a wonderful man.”
“You did an excellent job with the children tonight.”
“What can I do to help with your hunting trip tomorrow?”
“May I go to the gun show with you today?”
“We had a wonderful trip. Thank you for asking.”
“The sermon was very good and convicting today.”
Immediate and profuse thankfulness
Often sends a Thank you card later
Believes she is not gracious
Never presumes or asks for favors
Never gets angry or ruffled or stiff or offended
Never speaks sarcastically or cutting
Willingly participates in group events
Very attentive and giving to inferiors
Her delightfully charming presence shines
Easily overlooks and ignores others’ faults
Wouldn’t cause a scene for any amount of money
Smiles, laughs, comforts a waitress who spills her wine
Cheerfully greets husband two hours late from work
Never demands or expects an apology for faults or failures
Willing to eat French fries when she ordered rice pilaf
Cheerfully changes when husband dislikes her favorite outfit
Enjoys taking the extra 10 minutes to talk to the elderly
Forgives in an instant and says apology was not necessary
Never interrupts conversations to correct or add facts
Never says or repeats things about others who are absent
Always has time for anyone and everyone
Others say, “She is such a beautiful and wonderful woman.”
Others say, “It is so pleasant and fun going out with her.”
Men say, “Women like her are one in a million.”
Always turns conversations to talk about the other person
I forgive you; forget about it; I’ve already forgotten about it.

“There is a spot on your collar.”
“My favorite kind has peanuts.”
“He never notices or does anything nice for me.”
“I wish you wouldn’t take so long with devotions.”
“Why do you have to go hunting every Saturday?”
“You just went to a gun show two months ago.”
“I threw up on the plane, and the hotel was dirty.”
“Aren’t we ever going to get out of Luke?”
Disconnected and minimal thankfulness
Seldom thinks of a card for smaller things
Believes she is gracious
Easily presumes and asks and expects
Easily gets angry, ruffled, stiff, and offended
Easily gets sarcastic or cutting
Shows dislike of choice or withdraws from group
Condescending, formal and haughty to inferiors
Her harsh, edgy, hard, critical presence darkens
Verbally criticizes or bodily condemns for faults
Easily makes a scene for “principle” and no money
Frowns, criticizes, complains, and ruins evening
Does not greet him, complains, and punishes him
Expects, requests, demands an apology or punishes
Demands her rice and slams waitress for evening
Makes excuses, complains, and wears it anyway
Cuts conversation short and complains anyway
Punishes, forgives slowly, criticizes, and reminds
Interrupts husband or others for trivial corrections
Easily whispers and slights others not present
Too busy and pressed to be attentive or helpful
Others say, “That’s Brenda. Try to overlook it.”
Others say, “I’d rather not go, if she’s coming.”
Men say, “Can you imagine living with that?”
Turns or allows conversations to center on herself
Do you know how much you hurt me?