

## **RUDENESS**

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Have you noticed the increase in *rudeness* in our society? Civility and politeness are quickly becoming things of the past. Drivers cut in front of other cars to gain a few seconds time, and then make rude gestures if honked at. It is becoming rare these days to hear a “please” or “thank you” or to have someone stop their busy lives to lend a helping hand. Some carry around mean and bitter attitudes, taking it out on those who get in their way. Many children are rude and inconsiderate and have not been trained to be respectful of adults and authority.

Rudeness often surfaces during times of disagreement. One person does something another person does not like, so that person says or does something rude to get even, or to “blow off some steam.” Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement on whether to take Mark with them on their missionary work (Acts 15:37-40). What would you have thought if Barnabas had called Paul a “stupid idiot” after Paul told him to take a “flying leap into the Mediterranean Sea?” Frankly, I cannot even imagine either man using crude, or impolite, language with each other, even in the heat of disagreement. Yet, many Christians today need to get better control of their emotions and actions to avoid doing and saying shameful things. We can disagree with one another without acting like immature fools.

Here is how the Bible describes the Christian’s disposition: “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering” (Colossians 3:12). Quite the opposite of rudeness, isn’t it?