

## Acceptable Behaviour

Let's look at what is acceptable behaviour for Christians [according to scripture]. Turn with me to Romans 12 and let's read verses 9 to 20...

All of us have some idea of what a Christian should behave like and especially the non-believer. At this busy time around Christmas when everyone is expecting 'good cheer' it is especially important that believers do not lose their testimony. We should be more credible and relevant to those around us than ever!

This passage of scripture highlights seven behavioural qualities which you as a Christian should display:

[1] You should be loving. Love is the guiding principle in all Christian relationships. This includes relationships with unbelievers and even those who oppose you. What ever you do you should do in love! The word used here is 'agape' the unconditional love which Jesus revealed to mankind.

[2] You should be tenderly affectionate to one another. The Greek word used here is only used once in the whole New Testament and it literally means 'friendly natural affection'.

[3] You should be diligent and passionate when serving the Lord. Many Christians fail to serve the Lord in any area, never mind serving Him with diligence and zeal!

[4] You should be patient under pressure. This is a good one for Christmas shopping! Remember, patience and steadfastness go hand in hand.

[5] You should be hospitable at all times. Hospitality is the key to Christian caring and it is the duty of every believer to demonstrate this social quality. Note, your home is not your castle, with a mote around it to keep people out, but rather a sanctuary for all in need.

[6] You should be humble and not highfalutin. If you consider yourselves higher than others, you will never associate with the humble. Humility is an exceptional quality because it shows true strength of character.

[7] You should try to live peaceably with all men. There may be times when people will remain opposed to you and when every effort toward peace has failed. However, you are to make certain that you are not at fault when peace has broken down.