

When asked to discuss disappointments, frustrations, and other negative aspects of their lives, people were 28% more likely to say something negative about their relationships than they were when asked about the positive aspects of their lives." —2002, CAUGHLIN AND HUSTON

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Failed Expectations:

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- Unrealistic (No one can meet them!)
- Unclear (Make me feel good!)
- Unfaithful (They are self-focused!)

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Essential #1:
"I must accept and share the <u>RESPONSIBILITY</u> for the health and well being of all my relationships."

Essential #2:

"I must expect more from myself (in effort) than I expect from others (in response)."

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Relate is a verb.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

I CORINTHIANS 13:4 (NIV)

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Practice the Positive Power of Patience "People who get angry quickly experience more arguments in their relationships, and their arguments continue 81% longer than people who are prone to remain calm."

-2001, BERRY AND WORTHINGTON

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The end of a matter is better than the beginning; the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools."

ECCLESIASTES 7:8-9

I need patience because people . . .

- don't cooperate with my plans
- don't fulfill my expectations
- · don't share my concerns
- don't understand my schedule
- don't respond the way I desire

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I need patience because people . . .

- interrupt my plans
- cost me money
- expect me to meet their needs
- · cause me a lot of problems

"If the only tool you have in your toolbox is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail."

—A. MASLOW

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5 Positive Expressions of Patience:

1. Patience is "keeping your head" when you feel like "flying off the handle."



"We've been on one of those 'fly-drive' holidays. He kept flying off the handle and the kids drove me up the wall."

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5 Positive Expressions of Patience:

2. Patience is listening even when I know the answers and can complete the sentences.

5 Positive Expressions of Patience:

3. Patience is allowing others the opportunity to learn by experience rather than coercing them to learn everything from mine.

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5 Positive Expressions of Patience:

4. Patience is giving people room to make mistakes and finding ways to forgive them when they do.

5 Positive Expressions of Patience:

5. Patience is being sensitive to the needs of others and the struggles they face may be greater than mine on any given day.

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Consider the Constructive Character of Kindness

"Love looks for ways of being constructive."

–J.B. PHILLIPS

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"Kindness is a language the dumb can speak and the deaf can hear and understand." —CHRISTIAN BOVEE **How Do You Express Kindness?**

Positive Communication

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"I can live for 2 months on one good compliment." —MARK TWAIN **How Do You Express Kindness?**

- Positive Communication
- Sensitive Support

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How Do You Express Kindness?

- Positive Communication
- Sensitive Support
- Responsive Action

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- Positive Communication
- Sensitive Support
- Responsive Action
- Protective Care

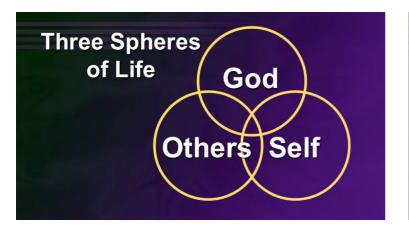
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How Do You Express Kindness?

- Positive Communication
- Sensitive Support
- Responsive Action
- Protective Care
- Forgive Mistakes

Able to suffer without complaining;
To be misunderstood without explaining;
Able to view without receiving;
To be ignored without grieving;
Able to ask without commanding;
To love despite misunderstanding;
Able to turn to the Lord guarding;
To wait for His own rewarding.

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Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and the things like these, of which I forewarned you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

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But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

GALATIANS 5:19-23