

## "Hard To Live With"

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*by Bill Crews*

It is said now and then of some individual, "He (or she) is hard to live with," or "he (or she) is hard to be around." If true, what a sad commentary on that person (who could change, if he really wanted to, his character, personality, and reputation). But you can get away from any person who is "hard to live with" -- for a while anyway. However, there is someone from whom you can never get away. You have to be with him every moment of every day -- yourself!

When anyone becomes "hard to live with," "hard to be around," or "difficult to get along with," he but passes sentence on himself to be perfectly miserable all the time. Do not sentence yourself to such a life.

On the tombstone of a young girl were the words: "It was easier to be good in her presence." What a commentary on any life! She must have been both pleasant and good. Above all things everyone should be what God wants him to be -- a Christian. Show me a Christian, a genuine Christian, not a counterfeit Christian, and I will show you someone who is not "hard to live with," someone in whose presence it is easier to be good, and someone whose example and efforts will serve to make Christians of others. Make a Christian of someone, and you help him for time and eternity.

In the Bible we read of many characters who were not hard to live with. Such as Noah (Genesis 6), Abraham (Genesis 12-ff), Joseph (Genesis 39-ff), Hannah (1 Samuel), Naomi and Ruth (book of Ruth), the worthy woman of Proverbs 31), Zacharias and Elisabeth (Luke 1), Mary and Martha (John 11; 12:1-3); Timothy (Philippians 2:19-20); Luke (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11); and many others.

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