

The Man of Power

by H. Burke Peterson

By Persuasion

He uses no demeaning words or behavior, does not manipulate others, appeals to the best in everyone, and respects the dignity and agency of all humankind —men, women, boys, and girls.

By Long-Suffering

He waits when necessary and listens to the humblest or youngest person. He is tolerant of the ideas of others and avoids quick judgments and anger.

By Gentleness

He uses a smile more often than a frown. He is not gruff or loud or frightening; he does not discipline in anger.

By Meekness

He is not puffed up, does not dominate conversations, and is willing to conform his will to the will of God.

By Love Unfeigned

He does not pretend. He is sincere, giving honest love without reservation even when others are unlovable.

By Kindness

He practices courtesy and thoughtfulness in little things as well as in the more obvious things.

By Pure Knowledge

He avoids half-truths and seeks to be empathetic.

Without Hypocrisy

He practices the principles he teaches. He knows he is not always right and is willing to admit his mistakes and say “I’m sorry.”

Without Guile

He is not sly or crafty in his dealings with others, but is honest and authentic when describing his feelings.

Editor’s Note: The above description is actually a **practical application** of several Scriptures that describe how the true Christian should be, think, and act. Consider the following:

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” Ephesians 4:1–3.

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” Philippians 2:3–4.

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful” Colossians 3:12–15.

And there are many others besides these. Think!