The Christian’s Personality
1 Peter 3:8

Introduction:
A. Sometimes too much attention is paid to personality.
   1. Truth or error often determined by personality of speaker.
   2. Personality often tailored to promote popularity.
B. Sometimes too little attention is given to personality.
   1. Bad behavior often excused by “that is just their personality.”
   2. Not enough effort of Christians to conform their personalities to the will of God.
C. Good personality traits are not peculiar to Christians, but Christians must work to develop them.

Discussion:
I. Christians Should Have a Friendly Personality.
A. “Courteous” in the text is from philo (friendly) and phronos (mind)
B. Reasons why people often are not friendly or courteous.
   1. Too busy.
   2. Too pre-occupied.
   3. Too self-centered (Do take note if others not friendly - Prov. 18:24)
II. Christians Should Have a Cheerful Personality.
A. Christians have every reason to be cheerful or rejoice (Phil. 4:4-7)
   1. The nearness of the Lord (v. 5).
   2. The privilege of prayer (v. 6).
   3. The promise of peace (v. 7)
   4. The hope in Christ. (Rom. 12:12).
B. Moods can be affected by several factors.
   1. Physical problems – need to try to be cheerful and understand others with problems.
   2. Purely sour disposition.
III. Christians Should Have a Compassionate Personality.
A. Text uses the words “pitiful” – not one pitied, but one who pities.
B. Compassionate toward hardships of others (cf. Matt. 14:14)
   1. Physical and emotional (Rom. 12:15)
   2. Spiritual (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:20, 21).
IV. Christians Should Have a Reasonable Personality.
A. “Moderation” in Phil. 4:5 means “very reasonable” or “sweet reasonableness.”
B. Easy to deal with – agreeable (cf. Jas. 3:17)
C. Not irrational nor moody.
V. Christians Should Have a Dependable Personality.
A. In doctrinal matters (Eph. 4:14)
B. In any matter (Jas. 1:8).
VI. Christians Should Have a Sincere Personality.
A. Should be sincere in all we do (Tit. 2:7; 2 Cor. 8:8; Phil. 1:16).
B. Insincerity in other personality traits are often evident – it shows.
   1. Obvious it is a “put on” for public consumption.
   2. Often assume personality that is not the real self.
   3. The “holy tone” in public worship.
VII. Christians Should Have a Growing Personality.
A. Are to grow in grace (graciousness of manner) (2 Pet. 3:18).
B. Every characteristic I have mentioned is subject growth.

Conclusion:
A. If you are a Christian, develop and improve these traits, may need personality change.
B. If not a Christian, become one, if already have traits keep them, if not develop them.