# Christian Light Publications

## No Such Thing as a Personality Clash?

Caleb Crider

Our cat Maggie's life was one of leisurely naps in the sunshine, stately hunting trips through the pasture, and a slow-paced, quiet lifestyle befitting a cat of her age and stature in the community.

This was all up-ended when we brought a kitten home. Quick to act, slow to think, Heath's most important priority seemed to be to have a good time. He pounced on Maggie when she was sleeping—and when she was awake. When Maggie stalked past, he would leap up with front paws spread wide, tackling her around the neck. Even when these encounters turned painful for him, his playful spirit was irrepressible.

Not being a cat expert or a personality expert, I assume that Maggie's and Heath's personality differences were mostly due to their age differences. As Heath matured, their relationship improved.

#### **Personality Differences**

Where did our personalities come from? They were influenced this way and that throughout our lives, but at the core, each of our personalities is a gift from God. And it's His design that each of us is unique.

The fact that we don't all have the same personality is good. Differences add rich dimensions to our lives that would be missing if we were all cookie-cutter same (though this can be hard to believe in the middle of a spat).

God didn't make us different so that we would clash. He intended us to blend and work together, becoming something better than we would be if we had no interaction at all. Being different, we each have a way to contribute to others.

#### **Personality Clashes**

In Getting Along with People God's Way, John Coblentz posits that "strictly speaking, there is no such thing as a personality clash."

He says that "it is the level of maturity in our character that makes our personalities pleasing or abrasive in interpersonal relationships." Growth in character—humility, faithfulness, honesty, love, and so on—results in our personalities being expressed in more pleasing ways.

This means that personality clashes often spring from an immature character in one or both participants. Coblentz writes, "Virtually any personality trait is abrasive when expressed in immaturity." So it follows that growth in our character (going from immaturity toward maturity) will reduce the number of personality clashes we are involved in.

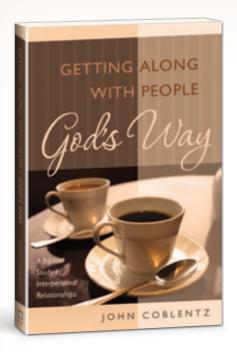
Back to our cat example, Heath may have been blessed with a lovely personality, but it was not expressed in mature ways. He didn't have the ability to be kind to Maggie, to understand how life might look from behind her baleful green eyes. If he had been a child, we would have worked to influence and grow his character.

#### **Growing in Character**

Are you reserved or outgoing? Quick-witted or more measured in your responses? No matter our personalities, each of us can reduce the number of clashes we have with others who are different from us.

Instead of chalking conflict up to a personality clash, let's work to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord" (2 Peter 3:18). Character grows as we water and nurture it. "Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" (2 Peter 1:5-7).

Whether you are a Maggie or a Heath, those around you will notice the difference.



#### **Getting Along With People God's Way**

John Coblentz

The Bible tells us that how we get along with one another matters very much to God. And His Word tells us how to build relationships and resolve problems. This inspirational and practical book points us to the life and teachings of Jesus, who modeled perfectly the way of peace. Following Him, we have what we need to restore, build, and maintain healthy relationships.

241490 \$8.95 219 pages, 5¼ x 8¼, CLP



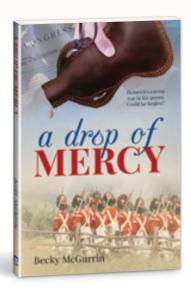
#### A Drop of Mercy

Becky McGurrin

The soldier looked at Heinrich. "Have mercy, sir. I'm so thirsty," he begged. Heinrich spat. "Not even a drop. Here's your mercy." He turned the skin upside-down and squeezed every last drop of cider onto the ground. Heinrich walked away from the wounded soldier, but he could not get away from the wretchedness he felt in his heart. How could God show him mercy when he had been so ruthless? Set in the American Revolution, A Drop of Mercy is the story of a young man finding his way—and finding hope—through the smoke and confusion of a war that crashed into his own backyard.

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ALØNG

**Getting Along at Work** Caleh Crider

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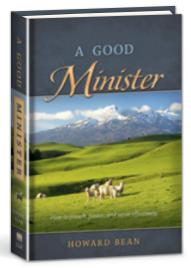
#### **A Good Minister**

Howard Bean

Written from the heart and life of an experienced minister, A Good Minister provides warm, practical, and inspirational counsel for the newly ordained, veteran ministers, or anyone with Christian leadership responsibilities.

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Text is actual size.

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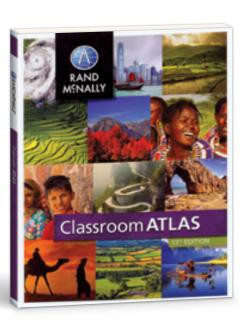
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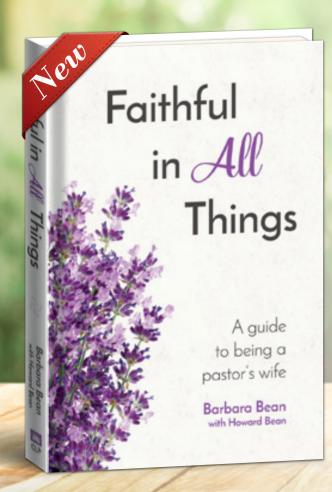


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