

A photograph of a traffic jam on a city street at night. The scene is illuminated by streetlights, creating a warm, orange glow. Numerous cars are packed closely together, filling the road and extending into the distance. The word "RUDENESS" is overlaid in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image. The background shows trees and buildings, suggesting an urban environment.

**RUDENESS**

# ESCALATING TENSION

- “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful” (1 Corinthians 13:4f).
- Perhaps the pace of our lives, the constant exposure to noise, the expectation for success, the pressure to get the most out of life, or the weight of self-inflicted financial burdens have all worked together to make us ruder than ever.
- More importantly, what can we do to ease the tension and show a better way to the people around us? How do we put passages like 1 Peter 2:1-2 into practice?

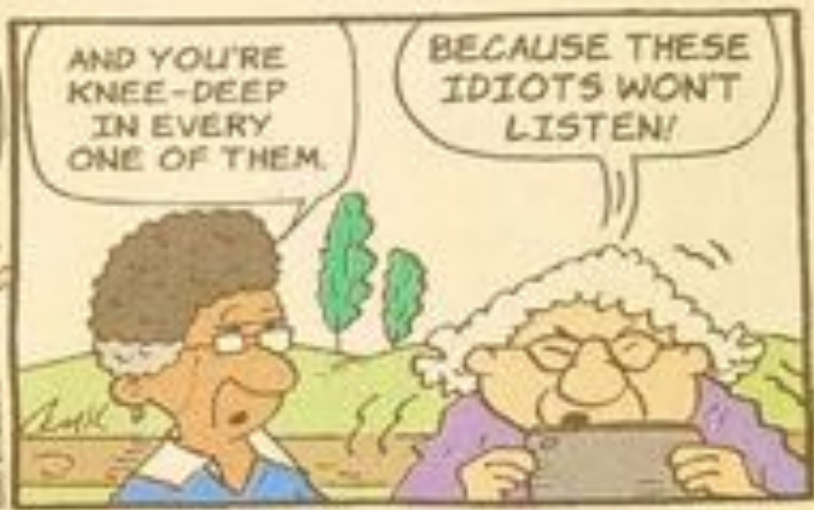


**EXCUSES**

# BREEDING RUDENESS

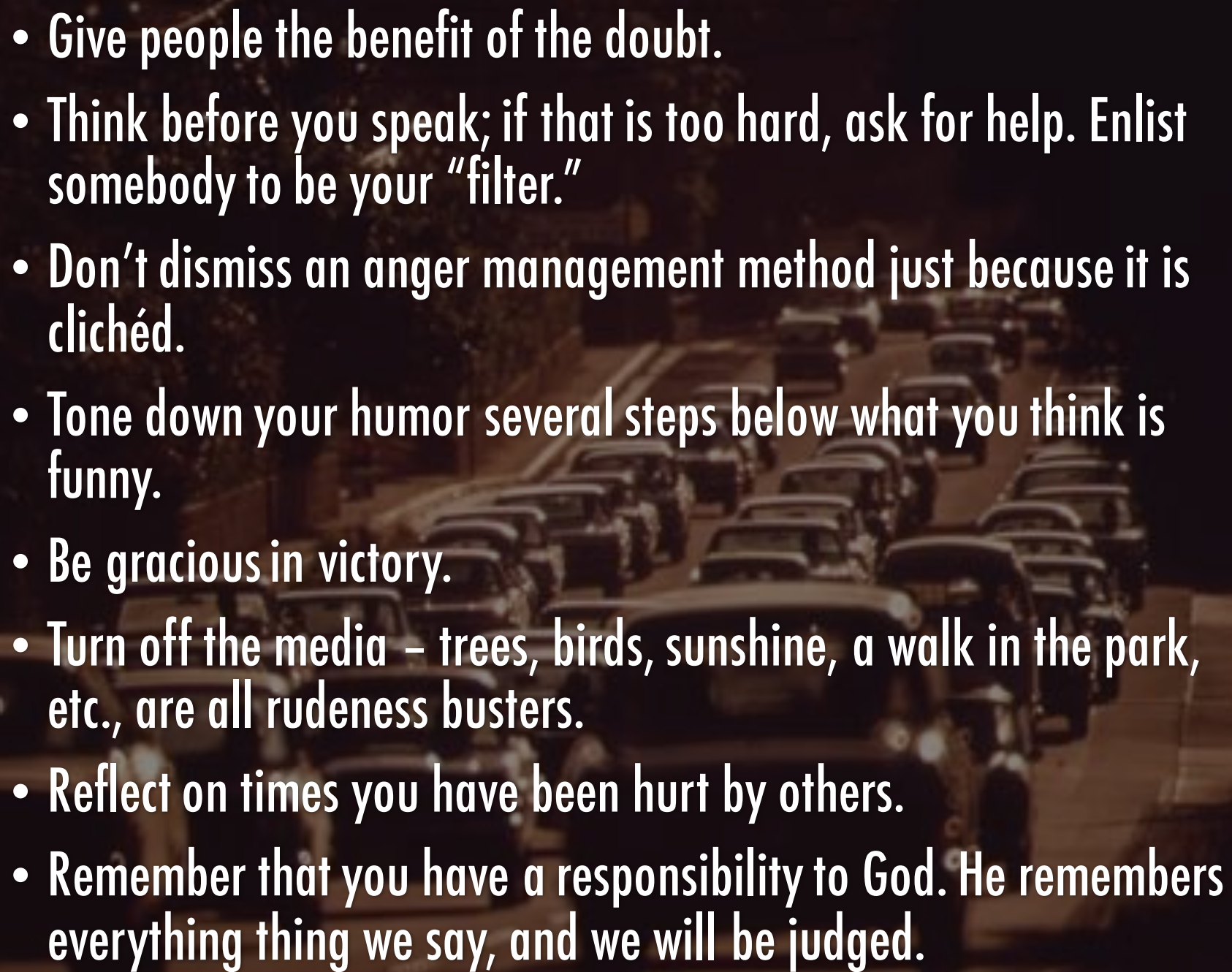
- Exposure (Proverbs 22:24-25, 20:19) – Rudeness, like so many sins, has a desensitizing effect on us.
- Anonymity – It's very easy to be rude to a faceless, nameless irritant. The more distance that exists, the more we think we can get away with it. This applies to traffic scenarios, online interaction, and the various clerks, waitresses, and assistants we treat like punching bags.
- "Taking the bait" – Rude people want to share their misery, so they bait others with edgy, sarcastic, or inflammatory actions. Even a tiny nibble gets you hooked, though. Instead, respond with a shocking level of kindness (Rom. 12:17ff, Matt. 5:10-12).

LOLA by Todd Clark



A photograph of a traffic jam at night. The scene is filled with cars, their headlights and taillights glowing in the dark. The perspective is from a slightly elevated position, looking down the road. The text "RESISTING RUDENESS" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image. The background shows a dense line of cars stretching into the distance, with trees and streetlights visible in the upper portion of the frame.

**RESISTING  
RUDENESS**

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- Give people the benefit of the doubt.
  - Think before you speak; if that is too hard, ask for help. Enlist somebody to be your "filter."
  - Don't dismiss an anger management method just because it is clichéd.
  - Tone down your humor several steps below what you think is funny.
  - Be gracious in victory.
  - Turn off the media – trees, birds, sunshine, a walk in the park, etc., are all rudeness busters.
  - Reflect on times you have been hurt by others.
  - Remember that you have a responsibility to God. He remembers everything thing we say, and we will be judged.