

Love
Joy
Peace
Forbearance
Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-Control





Safe People. Safe Congregations

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

—Galatians 5:22-23 (25)


Safe congregations are places where people can worship God and grow in faith freely without the fear of being hurt, harassed, or harmed. All of us want to be part of a safe congregation. So what can we do to make our congregation safer? We each can help by choosing to be a safe person.

What does that look like? Here are some qualities that can be seen in a safe person:


- Treats each person with dignity and respect
- Actively listens with compassion and empathy to others
- Acts with honesty and integrity
- Respects others boundaries
- Admits and apologizes after wronging someone
- Advocates for the marginalized and the vulnerable

Many of the words in this list are tied directly to the fruit of the Spirit. A safe person is one who displays these fruit in their lives.

For more, visit crcna.org/SafeChurch/abuse-awareness

 **Thrive** Thrive is an agency of the CRCNA that provides expertise, wisdom, and compassionate support to congregations while remaining attentive to a wide range of opportunities and challenges facing the church today. Thrive advises and resources churches in the areas of faith formation, abuse prevention, disability inclusion, racial reconciliation and diversity, pastors and church support, chaplaincy, justice, and worship.

We are blessed by three kinds of financial support: CRC ministry shares, designated church offerings, and individual donations from generous people like you.

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