

# Dealing With Difficult People

## Life Series – Lesson 5

**Memory Verse: 2Pet. 1:3** - seeing that His divine power has granted to us **everything** pertaining to **life** and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

*What are the characteristics of difficult people? What causes people to be difficult to deal with?*

*Does the word of God advise us when dealing with difficult people?*

**What should our motive be when dealing with anyone?**

**Hebrews 12:14** Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord...

**Romans 12:18** If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Regardless of how others treat us, we are to try to have peaceful relationships with them.

**Matt. 5:9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

**What important character trait is needed to deal with difficult people?**

**Philippians 2:3** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit (*excessive pride*), but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

**James 3:17-18** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.  
Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

*The opposite of conceit and selfishness is humility. Humility is necessary to properly deal with difficult people. We want others to be patient with our shortcomings, and we should be patient with theirs. When we strive to make peace, we are exercising humility.*

Ex. Abraham & Lot

**How do we deal with situations or people that always create problems?**

**Proverbs 22:3**

A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

**Proverbs 17:27-28**

He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

*Whenever possible, we should try to avoid confrontations. If we have to be present, then we should say as few words as possible. The last thing we need to do is provoke someone. Even Christ walked away from situations that were getting out of hand (Mark 3:6-7).*

## **How do we answer people who like to argue, or just want to be heard?**

### **Proverbs 26:4-5**

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. 5. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

*Some people have their mind made up that their opinion is right, regardless of what anyone else says. With these people it is best not to continue the discussion (verse 4). Others like to make themselves look superior by making detrimental comments about someone else. With these people, a polite answer that shows their error is appropriate (verse 5).*

Jesus did. John 8:7 He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

## **Is there ever a time we should "get even" with someone who mistreats us?**

### **Romans 12:17-21**

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing so you will heap coals of fire on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

### **Matthew 7:12**

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

*We should never treat someone in a way we would not want to be treated. Just because someone may mistreat us, we have no right to mistreat him or her. God says vengeance is His, simply because He alone can carry out righteous justice. In fact, when we overcome evil with good, it makes an impression on those who mistreat us!*

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