

How to Deal with Difficult People

It's Complicated - Part 5

May 22, 2022

How do we handle the difficult relationships in our life?

*“²¹Then Peter came to Him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ²²‘No, not seven times,’ Jesus replied, ‘but seventy times seven!’ ²³Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. ²⁶But the man fell down before his master and begged him, “Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.” ²⁷Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and **forgave his debt**. ²⁸But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. ²⁹His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. “Be patient with me, and I will pay it,” he pleaded. ³⁰But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. ³¹When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³²Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, “You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, **just as I had mercy on you?**” ³⁴Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. ³⁵That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.” Matthew 18:21-35 (NLT)*

“You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NLT)

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins.” Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)

Treat others the way Jesus has already treated you.

When you realize just how much you’ve been forgiven, you’ll be quick to forgive others. If you’re unforgiving with others, you’ve forgotten how forgiving He has been with you.

You don’t ever have to do more for others than what God has done for you.

Practical ways to deal with difficult people:

- **Create margin in your schedule for divine interruptions**
- **Seek out the outcast**
- **Ask them to tell you their story**
- **Create healthy boundaries**
- **Depend on God’s Spirit for guidance and strength**

*“¹⁶So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. ... ²²But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and **self-control**. There is no law against these things!” Galatians 5:16, 22-23 (NLT)*

- **Remember: Oftentimes, you’re the difficult person.**

*“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of **all** that is taught in the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:12 (NLT)*

“Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.” 1 Corinthians 9:19 (NLT)

Whose Kingdom are you trying to build? Yours or His?

*“³⁴So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵Your love for one another will **prove to the world** that you are My disciples.” John 13:34-35 (NLT)*

What does love require?