

Relationships

(A Mess Worth Making)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 12/13, 2016 Ray Davis

“Difficult People”

When we enter relationships with the illusion that people are normal, we set ourselves up for disillusionment. People are normal until you get to know them. Everybody is somebody's difficult person. If we respond unwisely, we can make difficult people more difficult.

2Cor.5:14-15

Types of Difficult People:

- ✓ The Critic—constantly complains & gives unwanted advice.
- ✓ The Martyr—forever the victim & full of self-pity.
- ✓ The Wet Blanket—pessimistic & automatically negative.
- ✓ The Steamroller—blindly insensitive to others.
- ✓ The Control Freak—unable to let go & let be.
- ✓ The Cold Shoulder—disengages & avoids contact.
- ✓ The Volcano—builds steam & is ready to erupt.
- ✓ The Sponge—is constantly in need but gives nothing back.

(Gossip, Backstabber, Green-eyed monster, Flirt, Workhorse, Competitor, Chameleon) From “High Maintenance Relationships” Les Parrott

How to Deal With Difficult People:

1) Don't take personal offense.

Pro12:16 The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.

Pro19:11 Good sense makes one slow to anger, & it is his glory to overlook an offense.

2) Look beyond their behavior and see their pain.

1Pet4:8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Eph4:1-2 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

3) Forgive them whether they apologize or not.

Luke 23:34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Col3:13 Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

4) Refuse to talk bad about them.

Pro17:9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

1Pet3:9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

5) Don't get sucked into their game.

Matt 22:18 But Jesus knew their evil motives. “You hypocrites!” he said. “Why are you trying to trap me? (NLT)

Pro26:21 As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

6) In the context of love have the hard conversation with them.

Eph4:15 Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

1John 3:18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

7) Always take the high road.

Rom 12:14-21

Growing Notes

1) When we enter relationships with the illusion that people are normal, we set ourselves up for disillusionment. Explain. Why is it true that people are normal until you get to know them (1Jn1:7; John8:7)? How does knowing that everybody is somebody's difficult person level the playing field?

2) Review the list of Difficult People. Do you recognize any of these people in your life? Which of these characteristics of difficult people would you be most prone to be like? How is 2Cor5:14-15 the cure?

3) Review the list of how to deal with difficult people along with corresponding verses. Which one(s) are strengths and which one(s) are growth areas for you?

4) What should be our ultimate goal in dealing with difficult people (2Cor1:24; Phil1:25)? Pray that db is safe place for all kinds of people to encounter the life-changing message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!