

SERMON NOTES



May 20, 2018

Ways To Deal With Difficult People:

1. Restoration in relationships.
2. Reconciliation
3. New relationships
 - God-ordained and God-given relationships.
 - Be faithful manage and nurture relationships you have before God will give new relationships.

Matthew 7:1 – 5 (AMPC)

¹*Do not judge and criticize and condemn others, so that you may not be judged and criticized and condemned yourselves.*

²*For just as you judge and criticize and condemn others, you will be judged and criticized and condemned, and in accordance with the measure you [use to] deal out to others, it will be dealt out again to you.*

³*Why do you ^[a]stare from without at the ^[b]very small particle that is in your brother's eye but do not become aware of and consider the beam ^[c]of timber that is in your own eye?*

⁴*Or how can you say to your brother, Let me get the tiny particle out of your eye, when there is the beam ^[d]of timber in your own eye?*

⁵*You hypocrite, first get the beam of timber out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the tiny particle out of your brother's eye.*

How To Deal With Difficult People:

1. Go to God before you go to the person
 - You are always out of God's will when you retaliate.
 - Make sure you are not cause of the problem.
 - Make sure God is in control of your emotions.
 - Your confession is the root of your victory or defeat.
 - Do not allow the difficult person to control your conversation.
 - Learn not to judge or condemn.

2. Pray

- Pray God's word.
- Do not gossip or criticize the difficult person. When you do, you are allowing the person to control your conversation.
- When you retaliate, you lower yourself to the person's level.
- Spiritual maturity is revealed by your response.
- Bless the difficult person by praying for them.
- When you pray, you release blessings to come back to your household.
- Blessings are released for God to bless you.

I Peter 3:9 (AMPC)

⁹ Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For know that to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection].

3. Choose to refuse to be offended

Proverbs 17:9 (AMPC)

⁹ He who covers and forgives an offense seeks love, but he who repeats or harps on a matter separates even close friends.

Proverbs 12:16 (AMPC)

¹⁶ A fool's wrath is quickly and openly known, but a prudent man ignores an insult.

4. Look behind the difficult person's behavior

- Ask God to let you walk a mile in their shoes.
- Have empathy.
- Having a greater understanding of difficult people releases patience to deal with that person.
- Ask God to show you what is behind the behavior.
- Learn to ignore the problem and consider the source.

5. Forgive the person before they ask

Mark 11:25 (AMPC)

²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and ^[a]let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your ^[own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you deal with difficult people?
2. How can these biblical principles change your life and improve your relationships?