

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

Strengthening Your Relationships – Part 7

October 19, 2014

1. Refuse to be **OFFENDED**.

Proverbs 12:16 (GNT) “When a fool is annoyed, he quickly lets it be known. Smart people will ignore an insult.”

Proverbs 19:11 (NIV) “A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.”

2. Refuse to wait for an **APOLOGY** to forgive.

Never hold on to a hurt, because resentment tears you up.

Luke 23:34 (NIV) “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) “Make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”

3. Refuse to **GOSSIP** about them.

Proverbs 17:9 (NCV) “Whoever forgives someone’s sin makes a friend, but gossiping about the sin breaks up friendships.”

Gossip is sharing information with somebody who is not part of the solution or part of the problem.

1 Peter 3:9 (NCV) “Do not do wrong to repay a wrong, and do not insult to repay an insult. But repay with a blessing, because you yourselves were called to do this so that you might receive a blessing.”

4. Refuse to **PLAY** their game.

Matthew 22:15 & 18 (MSG) “The Pharisees plotted a way to trap Him into saying something damaging...¹⁸ Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, ‘Why are you playing these games with Me? Why are you trying to trap Me?’”

2 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT) “We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don’t try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.”

Proverbs 26:21 (NCV) “Just as charcoal and wood keep a fire going, a quarrelsome person keeps an argument going.”

5. Refuse to **CAVE** in.

**Forgiveness is instant and it is by grace.
Trust is by works and it takes time.**

Romans 14:16 (NIV) “Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil.”

Galatians 5:1 (NCV) “We have freedom now, because Christ made us free. So stand strong. Do not change and go back into the slavery of the law.”

Matthew 15:12-14a (NLT) “The disciples came to Him (Jesus) and asked, ‘Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?’¹³ Jesus replied, ‘Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be rooted up,¹⁴ so ignore them!’ ”

6. Refuse to take anything but the **HIGH** road.

Romans 12:14 (GNT) “Ask God to bless those who persecute you—yes, ask Him to bless, not to curse.”

Real love loves the unlovely and the one who is spitting in your face.

Romans 12:17-18 (GNT) “If someone has done you wrong, do not repay Him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. ¹⁸Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.”

Romans 12:21 (NIV) “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

James 4:10 (NIV) “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”