

FIGHTING FOR AWESOME RELATIONSHIPS
Dealing with Difficult People
October 23, 2016

(Match up the list below)

BEHAVIOR

DECEIVING
DEFLATING
DEBATING
DISAPPROVING
DISRESPECTFUL
DEFERRING
DOMINEERING
DIGGING
DEMANDING
DISCONTENTED
DEAFENING
DESTRUCTIVE
DISAPPROVING
DEFECTOR
DISMISSING

PERSONALITY

MANIPULATORS
NEGATORS
ARGUMENTATIVE
JUDGEMENTAL
CRITICAL
PEOPLE PLEASER
BULLY
PASSIVE AGGRESSOR
PREMADONNA
WHINERS
LOOPING AUDIO FILE
HOTHEAD
NITPICKING
NON-PLAYER
OVERLY-OPINIONATED

1. WHAT DIFFICULT PEOPLE CAN DO FOR ME.

- ✓ They have the nerve to say what everyone else is thinking.
- ✓ Reveal my own insecurities
- ✓ Make me resilient
- ✓ Help me discover who I really am
- ✓ Creates supporters for your leadership
- ✓ Increase my prayer-life

2. WHAT I CAN DO FOR DIFFICULT PEOPLE

A. OFFER GRACE

• **DON'T GET MAD**

"When a fool is annoyed, he quickly lets it be known. Wise people will ignore an insult."
Proverbs 12:16

• **DON'T BAD MOUTH THEM**

"Disregarding another person's faults preserves love; but gossiping about them separates close friends."
Proverbs 17:9

• **DON'T RETALIATE**

"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."
1 Peter 3:9

B. OFFER FORGIVENESS

"You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."
Colossians. 3:13

• **DON'T HOLD ON TO A HURT**

"See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."
Hebrews 12:15

• **DON'T WAIT FOR AN APOLOGY**

"Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'"
Luke 23:34

• **DON'T THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN THEM FOR FORGIVING.**

"And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."
Ephesians 4:32

C. OFFER TRUTH

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."
Matthew 18:15

• **DON'T ARGUE**

"Just as charcoal and wood keep a fire going, a quarrelsome person keeps an argument going."
Proverbs 26:21

• **DON'T RESCUE**

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ...each one should carry their own load."
Galatians 6:2,5

• **DON'T CAVE IN**

"Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil."
Romans 14:16

REMINDER: I am someone's difficult person.

TAKEAWAY: ALWAYS TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

Romans 12:14 "ask God to bless those who persecute you—yes, ask him to bless, not to curse."

Sources: Concept based on John Townsend, Boundaries and "Keeping the Crazy-makers from Making you Crazy" pastors.com; stevedunmire.com