

Pt. 5: How Do I Deal With Difficult People?

Questions for further study and application:

- Day 1 Dealing with difficult people can be a challenge. Read John 5:30. Remember, you're not here to please yourself, you're here to please God. You are not meant to deal with people alone, nor are you meant to please everyone. God gives you free will to live your life anyway you choose, and when you choose Him, you've chosen the best way to live. When you choose to love your neighbors, when you honor your parents, when you work to the best of your ability, you are choosing God. In doing so, you learn quickly that you cannot please everyone, but you can please God.
- Day 2 Read Psalm 118:8. This verse tell you to trust God, not people. In John 2:24, you see that Jesus didn't trust people either because he knew that they were untrustworthy. Even your best intentions can come with selfish motives at times. When dealing with difficult people, you have to refuse to play their game and often you have to rise above it. How do you do that? By focusing on Jesus, by trusting Him. You can still love them, no matter what they do or say. Your challenge is to love them despite the games they are playing. Pray today for the grace to rise above those situations and respond in love.
- Day 3 Read 1 Peter 3:9. One of the hardest things to do is not to retaliate against someone who has offended you. Yet, that is what Jesus tells you to do. Not only that, He set the example. What does it look like for you to not retaliate? It could be walking away from an argument. It could be putting a hand over your mouth to stop yourself from saying hurtful words. It can be just listening. Not only can it mean not responding to the hurtful words or actions, but actually blessing them instead. Buying them lunch, sending them a note of encouragement, or finding a way to bless them that is unique to their situation. Jesus didn't just not retaliate, He blessed them as well.
- Day 4 Read Matthew 5:44. Praying for those who hurt you can be difficult, yet it is how to bring God into an impossible situation. Some people can't be fixed, and you've got to give them to God. When you start praying for people, you begin to see them differently. You begin to discover why they act the way they act. Ultimately you begin to realize the grace Jesus has given to you, that you have received, and that you need to extend to them. Prayer is what can make a difficult person easy to love. Prayer gives insight when there is no other way to see it. In order to truly release them and give them to God, you need to pray for them.
- Day 5 Ephesians 4:32 teaches you to be kind, to be tenderhearted, and to be forgiving, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. It is hard to deal with the tension and stress that results from difficult people. The only way you can do it is to realize that you have been forgiven. Because God has forgiven you, you can choose to forgive other people. You can choose to live in freedom from difficult people. You can choose to live in forgiveness, don't close your arms to others when God has extended His arms to you. That is how you live with difficult people, the same way God lives with us.

What's New?

We'll be introducing short-term, quick-start volunteer positions with zero experience necessary for July and August! Check it out at: watersedgechurch.net/summervolunteers