

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

*** When dealing with difficult people, we must first ask, "what defines difficult?"**

First recognize the environment

Ungodliness of man, has been the choice of man from the beginning - Rom 1:18-20 - 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against **all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness**, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world **God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.**

His displayed wrath may not fit what is thought - Rom 1:21-32 - 21 For although they knew God, they neither **glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him**, but **their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened**. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over** in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen. 26 **Because of this, God gave them over** to shameful lusts. **Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. 28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to** a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 **Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**

We are in the terrible age of self - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - **But mark this:** There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** Have nothing to do with them.

We have allowed self to devalue sound doctrine - 2 Tim 4:3-4 - 3 For **the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine**. Instead, **to suit their own desires**, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will **turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.**

WE MUST FIRST ADJUST SELF

Do we really check ourselves - Rom 2:19-24 - if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 As it is written: "**God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.**"

You are most likely not what you think you are cut out to be - Gal 6:3-5 - 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, 5 for each one should carry his own load.

Our purpose can never be for self - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **Do nothing** out of *selfish ambition* or *vain conceit*, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

We must be filled with God's Word and with God's attitude - Col 3:16-17 - 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another **with all wisdom**, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs **with gratitude in your hearts to God**. 17 And **whatever you do**, whether in word or deed, **do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Live your life as an example of what we should be - 1 Thess 4:11-12 -11 **Make it your ambition** to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

The Armor is not the only clothing we are to wear - Col 3:12-14 - 12 Therefore, as **God's chosen people**, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with** compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Not acknowledging our issues distorts us helping others with theirs - Matt 7:3-5 - 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

We need to make attitude adjustments every day to prepare to deal with all people. - Rom 12:9-12- 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

We are to minister regardless of the person or situation - 2 Tim 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

JUDGING THE GODLY WAY

How you judge... (what it's based on, the amount of compassion and understanding, how you communicate... will all be done for you the same way.) - Matt 7:1-2 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For **IN THE SAME WAY YOU JUDGE OTHERS, YOU WILL BE JUDGED,** and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

We are supposed to judge, however, we have to judge based on the right things - John 7:24 Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

Our judgment must only be based on God -John 8:15-17 - 15 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. 17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid.

Be helpful for one another not judgmental - Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

THE RELATIONSHIP

Our relationship with difficult people is not for us but for God - Matt 5:44-48 - 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The key to all relationships is love - Rom 13:9-10 - 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

We must love all and love all equally - James 2:8-9 - 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

We have to see everyone through God's eyes - 2 Cor 5:16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

Control the things you say so they may have a positive, not negative affect - Eph 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

There is a difference on those in the Church and those outside the Church - 1 Cor 5:12-13 - 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

Christians that are difficult can be stumbling blocks. It is up to us as Christians to try and restore them and be careful not to be affected by them. Gal 6:1 - Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

Our sole purpose for outsiders is to save them - Col 4:5-6 - 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.