



TROUBLESOME PEOPLE

Matthew 5:43-48 KJV

[43] Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. [44] But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; [45] That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. [46] For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? [47] And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? [48] Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Case Studies in Scripture about Difficult People:

1. CUT THE TIES

Acts 15:36-39 KJV

[36] And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. [37] And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. [38] But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. [39] And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

Disagreements can be so divisive that we sever all ties to the individual with which we disagree.

2. EXTEND THE ROPE

John 13:21-27 KJV

[21] When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. [22] Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. [23] Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. [24] Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. [25] He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? [26] Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. [27] And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

We continue in the relationship with the individual in whom we disagree regardless of their opposing viewpoint.

3. REBUKE THE SPIRIT

Acts 16:16-19 KJV

[16] And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: [17] The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. [18] And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. [19] And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

God uses difficult people in our lives to reveal how we will act when we encounter them. This teaches us to control our own emotions and improves the way we handle others.

Types of Difficult People

(many of these personalities can be found in Proverbs)

the Nitpicker:

unpleasable perfectionist, lives for technicalities, and definitions.

the All Things PHD:

the "expert" in all things, know-it-all, has already taken everything into consideration.

the Crybaby:

always seeks a pity party, a constant victim of life, everything's unfair.

the Megaphone:

won't stop talking, monopolizing the conversation. Loves the way they sound.

the Great Exception:

always the exception to the norm or the rule. non-conformist, the stray cat.

the Volcano:

intensive wrath, anger is always just below the surface, minefield conversations.

the Bubble Buster:

deflates everyone's joy, seeks out negative, loves to share bad news.

the Justifier:

right or wrong, they always have a reason that makes them right.

the Carnie:

mocker, insults disguised as humor, likes to wind people up. Seeks out targets.

the Space Cadet:

on their own frequency, interject random topics into the conversation.

the Sherman Tank:

runs over everyone they encounter, insists on getting their opinion out.

the Brutus:

schmoozes you to your face while undermining you behind the scenes.

the Mystery Man:

their personality changes so frequently that you never know who you're dealing with.

Everybody is somebody else's difficult person

Romans 12:17-19 KJV

[17] Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. [18] If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. [19] Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

4 Lessons from Scripture Regarding Difficult People:

1. Jesus understood you can't please everyone

Luke 4:24 KJV

And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

2. Jesus refused to play the game

John 8:7 KJV

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

3. Jesus never retaliated

Luke 6:27 KJV

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

4. Jesus prayed for difficult people

Luke 6:28 KJV

Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Steps for Pain Relief:

1. Examine your heart
2. Learn how to handle difficult people
 - a. Confrontation?
 - b. Delay?
 - c. Ignore it?
3. Ask God for wisdom

If we will just focus on obeying the word of God, He will lead us on the right path. He wants us to be peacemakers and by striving toward peace, not conflict, God will show us how He is in control of all matters involving people. God will take care of all justice.

Proverbs 16:7 KJV

When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Psalms 119:165 KJV

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Luke 18:7 KJV

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

We should thank God for difficult people who drive us to our knees so we can watch God in action.