

Living with Difficult People— What Are Your Responsibilities?

Key passages:

Matthew 5:38-48, 5:9; Matthew 18:21-35; I Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 4:1-3; Ephesians 5:22-33; Philippians 2:1-15; I Peter 3:7

Questions

Matthew 5:38-48—How are you showing love to your enemy or this difficult person, turning the other cheek and going the extra mile?

How are you showing grace to this difficult person just as the Lord shows grace on the “unjust”?

How are you showing mercy (holding back what a person deserves) to this difficult person?

If the Lord loved only the lovely, who would get loved?

Matthew 18:21-35—Where would you be in relationship with the Lord if the Lord responded to you the way you are responding to this person?

I Corinthians 13:4-7—How are you doing “enduring all things?”

How are you doing not keeping accounts of wrongs suffered?

Ephesians 4:1-3—What would the opposites of each of these characteristics be?

Which list are you portraying with this difficult person? The list in the verses or the opposites?

Has the Lord had to put up with a lot from you over the years?

Ephesians 5:22-33—How are you showing the sacrificial love of Christ who died for people who sin against Him?

Philippians 2:1-15—Based on these verses what was the Lord’s approach to sinful difficult people?

What are you told to do in relationship with others according to these verses?

What rights do you believe you have that are being violated? Where would we be in relationship to God if Christ had sought to preserve His rights?

Colossians 3:12-19—According to verse 12, what is your demeanor toward others to be?

In what ways have you grown bitter?

I Peter 3:7—What are told to do in relationship with your spouse? What happens if you don’t?