

HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

ROMANS 12:14-21

JIM HINTON

1. Make sure I am not the “difficult person”

And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

Matthew 7:3-5 (NLT)

Love your neighbor as yourself
Matthew 22:29 (NIV)

2. Refuse to allow anyone to control me (See Romans 12:14-21)

Don't let difficult people control...

- My words (v.14)
- My thoughts (v.15)
- My response (v.17-21)

When a fool is annoyed, he quickly lets it be known. Smart people will ignore an insult.
Proverbs 12:16 (TEV)

3. Accept people where they are

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
Romans 15:7 (NIV)

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."
Luke 23:34 (NLT)

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 (NCV)

When you realize that people treat you according to how they see themselves rather than how you really are, you are less likely to be affected by their behavior. Your self-image will reflect who you are, not how you're treated by others. You will not be riding an emotional roller coaster. This type of stability will have a tremendous effect on how you feel toward and deal with others.

John Maxwell

4. Look for the good in others

What you expect is what you look for.
What you look for is what you see.
And what you see is what you get.
Unknown

Whoever looks for good will find kindness, but whoever looks for evil will find trouble.

Proverbs 11:27 (NCV)

5. Decide to forgive them

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others...For as members of one body you are called to live in peace...

Colossians 3:13-14 (NLT)

Recall the pain of being wronged, the hurt of being stung, cheated, demeaned. Doesn't the memory of it fuel the fire of fury again, reheat the pain again, make it hurt again? Suppose you never forgive, suppose you feel the hurt each time your memory lights on the people who did you wrong. And suppose you have a compulsion to think of them constantly. You have become a prisoner of your past pain; you are locked into a torture chamber of your own making. Time should have left your pain behind; but you keep it alive to let it flay you over and over. Your own memory is a replay of your hurt – a video tape within your soul that plays unending reruns of your old rendezvous with pain. You cannot switch it off. You are hooked into it like a pain junkie; you become addicted to your remembrance of pain past. You are lashed again each time your memory spins the tape. Is this fair to yourself – this wretched justice of not forgiving? You could not be more unfair to yourself.

Dr. Lewis B. Smedes