

PEOPLE

The Christian life involves working with people. The more you know how to get along with people, the further your influence will go. God puts us with a family up to 18 years before we leave. That is longer than any animal stays with its parents! Then comes college dormitory life - more people. Then comes marriage - a person for life. Then comes a career - more people. During all this time is church involvement - more people. People who do not know how to get along with others have problems all of their life.

BIBLE CHARACTERS

Lot could not get along with Abraham. The brethren could not get along with Joseph. The people could not get along with Moses. Saul could not get along with David. The church at Corinth was filled with contention and discord.

HELPS

REMOVE PRIDE FROM YOUR LIFE

Prov. 13:10 says: *“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”* When someone is proud and backslidden they argue and have a hard time getting along with anyone.

READ YOUR BIBLE DAILY

Ps. 119:9 says: *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”* Ps. 119:165 says: *“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”* John 6:63 says: *“It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”* The Word gives you the mind of Christ. Phil. 2:5 says: *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”* If you are thinking like Jesus, you will treat people the way He would.

DAILY PRAYER

It is amazing how well you get along with someone you pray for. Matt. 6:21 says: *“where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* Put the treasure of your time in prayer for someone and your heart will follow.

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Eph. 5:18 says: *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”* Let the Holy Spirit control you.

LEARN TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT

Prov. 13:3 says: *“He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.”* Prov. 17:27 says: *“He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.”* Prov. 29:11 says: *“A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.”* Eccl. 5:2 says: *“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.”* Trouble

comes as we open our mouth when we should remain silent. Many fights begin with words.

DO NOT TALK ABOUT PEOPLE

Great minds talk about ideas.

Average minds talk about things.

Weak minds talk about people.

Gossip is sharing information with someone who is neither part of the problem nor the solution. Accusing people is doing the work of the devil.

DO NOT REBUKE A FOOL

Prov. 9:8 says: *“Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.”* A fool is someone who is not serious about practicing God’s principles. They cannot take reproof.

DO NOT GIVE YOUR OPINION UNLESS ASKED

Unsought advice is seldom followed and usually resented.

DO NOT WEAR OUT YOUR WELCOME

Prov. 25:17 says: *“Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour’s house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.”* Familiarity breeds contempt. Do not spend too much time with any one person or family.

GUARD YOUR FIRST WORDS

Prov. 15:28 says: *“The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.”* Be careful how you begin conversations.

TREAT PEOPLE AS YOU WOULD JESUS

Matt. 25:40 says: *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”*

GIVE PEOPLE BREATHING ROOM

Do not insist everyone believe as you do on every subject.

DO NOT JOKE WITH PEOPLE YOU DO NOT KNOW WELL

DO NOT TAKE THE DOG BY THE EARS

Prov. 26:17 says: *“He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.”* Do not get involved in disputes that do not concern you.

DO NOT INSIST ON YOUR WAY ALL THE TIME

Rom. 12:10 says: *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;”*

DO NOT BEGIN CONVERSATIONS NEGATIVELY

A good word brings health.

DO NOT GIVE YOUR OPINION IF THE PERSON IN AUTHORITY HAS GIVEN THEIR ADVICE IN THE MATTER.

NEVER ARGUE

PLAN YOUR FELLOWSHIP TIME

Eph. 5:17 says: *“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS SLOWLY AND WISELY

Get with a group of people who already are what you want to be.

- Spend 80% of the time with those stronger than you.
- Spend 10% of the time with those on same level as you.
- Spend 10% of the time with those weaker than you (so you can help them)

TREAT FRIENDS WITH DIGNITY

Do not just drop in.

REVIEW PEOPLE - STEP 42

1. The more you know how to get along with people, the farther

2. Name three Bible characters that had a hard time getting along with others:

3. Remove _____ from your life.
4. Learn to keep your mouth _____.
5. Do not talk about _____.
6. Do not rebuke a _____.
7. Do not give your _____ unless _____.
8. Do not wear out your _____.
9. Do not take the _____ by the _____.
10. Choose your friends _____ and _____.