

sometimes no matter how hard we try to have a good relationship with someone, it doesn't work.

The apostle Paul addressed that situation in Romans 12:18. Notice the phrase "as much as depends on you." He knew that some people problems may never be resolved. It takes two to quarrel; it takes two to reconcile. If you do your part and the problem remains, there is still a plan to follow. Don't harbour resentment or retaliate with the weapon of silence. Work at overcoming evil with good (v.21), and let God work out the problem.

We need to keep following the steps given in Romans 12:9-21 until our people problems are resolved—but especially if they're not.

How To Handle People Problems (Romans 12)

Be affectionate (v.10).

Be prayerfully patient (v.12).

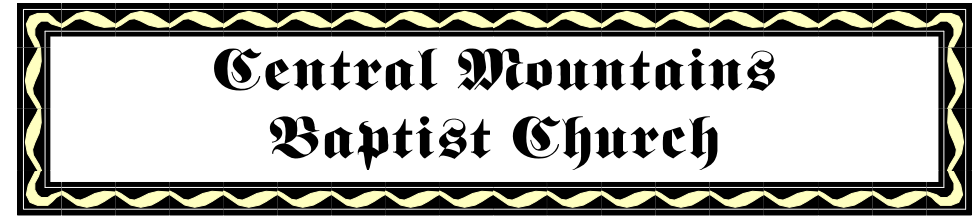
Bless your persecutors (v.14).

Be humble (v.16).

Don't take revenge (v.19).

Defeat evil with good (v.21).

The best way to conquer an enemy is with the weapon of love.



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People Problems

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. —Romans 12:18

My neighbour seemed upset with me. Apparently I had done something that bothered her. When I asked if I had offended her, she responded with a curt "No!" I told her, "I don't want any bad feelings between us. If I've done something to offend you, I apologise." Since then the climate has remained cool.

Someone has said, "The more I get to know the human race, the more I love my dog." Dogs are loyal, dependable, eager to please, and quick to forgive and forget. Don't you wish people were more like that? But



Insights for Living

Standfast in Gentleness 5



- #1. Standfast in harmony, v2-3
- #2. Standfast in joy, v4
- #3. Standfast in gentleness, v5**
- #4. Standfast in peace, v6-7
- #5. Standfast in thought, v8
- #6. Standfast in action, v9

(James 1:20) "for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

We can make multiple Biblical suggestions for having victory over anger:

1. Owning my behaviour and repenting of it,
2. The replacement principle,
3. Tracking thoughts,
4. Trusting the Lord,
5. Self control,
6. Seek humility,
7. Forgive,
8. _____,



(Psalms 145:8-9) "The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. {9} The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works."

(Exodus 34:6-7) "... "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, {7} "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, ...""

(2 Peter 3:9) "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

(Galatians 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. ..."

(1 Corinthians 13:4) "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;"

(Romans 5:3-4) "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; {4} and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

9. Avoid _____,

(Proverbs 29:11) "A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back."

(Proverbs 22:24-25) "Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, {25}

Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul."

(Ephesians 4:29) "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, ..."

(1 Peter 5:7) "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."



10. _____,

(Matthew 26:41) ""Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.""



(1 Peter 5:8) "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

(1 Corinthians 10:13) "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

(Matthew 5:21-22) ""You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, ...' {22} "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."

(Ephesians 6:10-18) "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. {11} Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. {13} Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, {15} and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; {16} above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. {17} And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; {18} praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;"

11. Seek _____, Philipians 4:5, 1-2

(2 Corinthians 10:1) "Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ; .."

(Proverbs 15:1) "A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger."

(Romans 12:2) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."



Gentle, please

12. _____, Philipinas 4:2, 5

(James 3:17) "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."