



Dealin' With Difficult People Above Or Below Ya.. Man That's Challenging!

“Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, ‘What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the Lord?’” ~2 Samuel 21:3

Ever read about the Gibeonites? David had to deal with them and also with difficult Saul ([v. 1](#)). Maybe you have some difficult people in your life these days... some who are believers and some who are unbelievers.. some who are in authority over you (like say at work..), some who are under your authority and some who are neither.

Following Dave's example in dealing with difficult people that are above, below and to the side of you ..would be a wise thing to do. I love how he went against his feelings and did what was kind to very cruel people. I especially love how he took the high road with religious king Saul.

The Gibeonites were difficult for David, but he called for them, met with them, communicated with them ..asking good questions ([vv. 2-7](#)) and in this relating he settled things down.

Every Christian fisher and leader will have their moments with difficult people to work with too. Of course it's a totally different ballgame when the difficult person is above you in authority (See [Matt. 18:16](#)) or even peer-level.

Draining circumstances are one thing to handle—we all have those at times as well, but how do you deal with people are regularly difficult?

Maybe you are an employer? Of course we as Christians are to show all wrong and right does God's love, grace and respect, but where in the Bible does it say that you must be a sissy or a doormat for the staff that you pay or work with? Won't find it. Will find passages that talk about you being humble and kind though.

Perhaps you are an underling in a church? Hopefully you will never have a difficult prayer-less, heartless, grace-killer pastor to deal with.. or a sicko-church.. or bullheaded religious leaders.. or yes-men board members who insists on doing things their own way... or a difficult closed-minded sin-hiding bishop.. or hurt friends who start hurting others. If you ever do, then please seek the Lord and some godly counsel. You'll need it.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

~Paul, Romans 12:18, niv

Jesus didn't have human pastors ranked above Him, but He did deal with a lot of difficult people (..still does). Here are four methods that Christ personally modeled throughout His life here on earth:

1. Realize you can't please everybody (Jn. 5:30). Hey, even the Father hasn't done that! One wants rain while the other demands sunshine.
2. Refuse to play their game (Matt. 22:18). Learn to say no to people with unrealistic expectations. Yup, confront and help them by "telling the truth in love."
3. Wisely protect people, but never retaliate when they do you wrong (Matt. 5:38-39). It only lowers you to their level.
4. Show respect to people even when they are disrespectful and pray for them (Matt. 5:44). It will be a plus for both of you. Let God handle them—they belong to Him.

Now, here are different types of difficult people who have been known to accost Christian fishers and even leaders...

Personally Type

The Tiger Army Tank:

likes to ride over the top of all tank-crunchies (gullible people).

The Space Cadet:

seems to spend a lot of time in another world (Tts. 2:6).

The Small Volcano,

unpredictable, explosive, lusts and goes after more power. Wants to be the church boss (1Ti 3:3, Tts 1:7, 3 Jn. 1:9).

The Thumb Sucker:

loves blowout type of self-pity parties, pouts n can make a big scene when they don't get their way (1 Cor. 13:5).

The Wet Blanket:

almost always wilting and down when things aren't that bad.

The Garbage Collector:

attracts the worst and likes to spread it around even when things are done right (Gal. 6:8, Tts. 3:10).

The User;

they toss people away like tissue paper when they're done with em. Wants to gain for self and their family! He/she demands more and more from people in time—unreasonable!

The Immature Gifted;

want to help. They often sees them self as super-gifted but they say way too much that's hit and miss biblically.

Coping Strategy

Consider the specific issue;

prepare well and confront them in love about agape Love (1 Cor. 13).

Stay grounded; give em duties that require pragmatism. Find, challenge and develop their unique giftings.

Don't fund or promote em. Promise nothin' to. Be direct. Clearly explain with right verses on self control. Warn and remove from crowd when needed. Listen/pray for.

Never reward them when in their weird funk. Instead wisely expose em to real trouble that customize and create for them ..to help em grow-up in Jesus.

Be tactfully honest with, don't cater to them like a nanny or sitter.. do not let them lead anyone yet. Get them to choose gratitude (and to memorize Ps. 33, 42:5)

Listen; verbally challenge their statements with witnesses. They might have seen real abuse so word questions well. Don't take out of context. Press for honesty.

Hardcore commando recruiters need to be chilled out by wise delegated authorities. Teach them selfless servanthood, setting an example, Jesus first and others second kind of love. Thoroughly set appropriate boundaries and require regular accountability (3 Jn. 1:11).

Spend some time with this person (taking them to 1 Cor. 3 and 1 Cor. 12). Gently teach what God says about carnality, freedom, gifts, order and love. Show them all of God's gift-guidelines and encourage them).

I bet (..if I can say it like that) you could add to that list and tell me about some others as well. I know that they are out there.

Ever met Mr. Bubble Buster? He is the one who enjoys deflating everyone's enthusiasm when they are trying to apply the Bible. He especially gets involved in blocking or distracting when a Christian starts to pray ..or starts to witness to an unbeliever. They don't even recognize it when a demon is speaking to them or using them to try and impede God's work.

Every run into Mrs. Nit Picker? She is an un-pleasable perfectionist who has you under her magnifying glass from early until late, Christian.. but she feel led to point out anything good about you. She has a deficit and this police-like activity somehow makes her feel better.

When asked what he considered the most valuable skill in employees, John D. Rockefeller once said, "**The ability to get along with people!**"

If you have been a difficult or trouble-making kind of person, then stop it! Simply confess it and repent today. Don't wait. Cease and desist with all that child's play. Come to Christ asking him to genuinely save and change you. God's Word commands "**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good**" (Rom. 12:21). Christ alone can make you into a productive part of His body instead of the into the opposite type!

Hey there, I am not hear to make lost difficult people behave themselves—I couldn't do that if I tried. I don't want to try and moralize unbelievers when their nature inside is to keep on sinning. Many don't see that they are like puppets dancing from the devil's strings.

I can only pray, appeal and witness to difficult lost people until they see how futile a life apart from my loving Lord is.

I like to ask for permission to share the Good News, but none of us Christians should ever be shocked when unbelievers get difficult or go off on us when we do that. We should expect that and be a bit surprised when they don't get difficult. Going off on ya is not beyond the moral or immoral unbelievers.

Yes, real persecution and mocking etc of course will happen in our day too, we just need to make sure that it is due to righteous behavior and communication rather than due to our own rudeness or idiocy.

It is carnal Christians—the worldly, the lukewarm, the distracted, the half-committed, the spiritually compromising ones—that become difficult people inside the Kingdom of God. And that is because spiritual Christians, according to how the Bible defines them are not difficult to deal with—they walk in victory, in love and in truth. They sow aggressively to the Spirit regularly, deny their fleshly desires and reap a harvest of peace and joy! The Spirit has been working on and in them awhile and they are on-fire in their relationship with Christ, looking to Him to meet all their needs and they are still growing.

Man, they are great to hangout with! Oh that the Spirit would sanctify all of us Christians until we are no longer difficult people. Make that your earnest prayer today, Christian!

Have a prayer request or some questions about knowing God ..and how to properly walk in Jesus Christ? At fish4souls.org click "[Contact](#)" and let us know! Perhaps we can help. Follow.. [Facebook.com/ShareJesus](https://www.facebook.com/ShareJesus) or at [Twitter.com/kurtwvs](https://twitter.com/kurtwvs)

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