



when relationships are difficult

How do we deal with difficult people especially our loved ones? As we continue our study on the book of 1 Peter, we can learn three important principles — K.F.C. — on how to live with HOPE when relationships are difficult.

1 know God's will

In living with difficult people, we need to know God's design. God's will for us is to submit with respect and do what is right even in suffering, just as Christ did, in obedience to God's will (1 Peter 2:18-22). Most of the time, God's methods are counterintuitive. For example: to be a leader, we must be a servant; to be the greatest, we must be the last (Luke 22:26-27). God created us and therefore knows what is best for us. He gave us His word, the Bible, as our "manufacturer's manual" so that we can experience the fullness of life that He has planned for us. We are not to copy the ways of the world but be transformed by renewing of the mind so that we may prove what His will is, which is good, acceptable, and perfect (Roman 12:2). When we understand God's will, it becomes easier for us to obey and follow His ways. We will be doers and not just hearers of His word (James 1:22).

2 follow God's way

God's way focuses on how we exhibit and live out God's will in practical ways. Peter expands on this by addressing how wives, husbands, and all people are to relate with one another. Wives are instructed to be chaste and respectful in their behavior, to submit to their husbands from the heart with respect, with a gentle and quiet spirit (vv. 1-6). Husbands are to live with their wives in an understanding way to show them honor and respect (v.7). Lastly, Peter urged everyone to be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead (v.8-9). True spirituality is tested in committed relationships. It can be challenging, but it is possible through power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

this week's memory verse

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect;

1 PETER 3:15

3 cling to God's promises

We are called to inherit a blessing and Peter tells us how. We are to keep our tongue from evil and turn away from evil and do good. The key to blessing is to understand the condition: repentance, seeking and pursuing peace, and continuing to be righteous (vv.10-11). Peter then gives an assurance of a promise that God sees, God knows, and God cares. He gives us the assurance of protection (v.12). God wants us to be motivated by His promises — to show our faith in Him. We will indeed face trials, but we can live with hope. In Deuteronomy 30:19-20, God is asking us to choose between life or death – the blessing or the curse. He encourages us to choose life by loving Him, obeying His voice, and holding on to Him because God's blessing can only be secured as we know His will, follow His ways, and cling to His promises.

We all face difficult people. The question is, are we able to influence them? Either God changes the person, or God will change us. God can use difficult people to sanctify us, to train us more and to transform us to become more like His Son, Jesus Christ! May we really show that we are people of hope as we interact with others in our relationships. Let us put this love and hope in action today!

discussion questions

How can you know what is God's way, God's will, and God's time?


How can you continue loving people who are a source of difficulty for you?


Do you think you are a toxic person? How can you improve?


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