



Getting Along with People at Work
as presented by Mary Lowman
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Working with Difficult People

Dealing with the Lazy Coworker

Here are some indications that it's time to confront the lazy coworker:

- You realize that until this coworker truly changes, he or she will continue to inflict harm on you and others, and will never become the good employee/worker that he or she could be.
- You realize that you are now enabling this coworker to continue to do wrong and keeping him or her from learning to do what is right.
- God has given you a "green light" in your spirit, after much prayer, and you know it is time for you to take some action.

Here are examples of wrong motivations:

- You are sick and tired of doing this lazy coworker's work and you realize you are going to explode if you don't say something soon.
- This lazy coworker is taking advantage of you and even taking credit for the work that you're doing, and that isn't fair to you.
- Management has a totally wrong impression of this lazy coworker, and it's time they knew the real story.

The above things may be true, but if they are your motivation to speak to this lazy coworker, chances are you won't speak in love.

Alternative Approaches for the Lazy Coworker

Here are some other possible approaches you could take in dealing with a lazy coworker. Note some potential pros and cons of each approach.



1. Allow the problem to surface itself by simply doing your own work well but not doing the other person's work. Eventually the poor work habits will come to the attention of those in power and hopefully will be confronted from an upper level position.

Pro: _____

Con: _____

2. If letting the work go undone would be harmful to some innocent people like customers, bring the matter to the attention of upper management.

Pro: _____

Con: _____

3. Keep a record of the times when you have done the coworker's work so that you have some proof of the problem when you decide the time is right to confront the situation.

Pro: _____

Con: _____

4. Hang in there a while longer and go a few more extra miles, without griping, complaining, or gossiping.

Pro: _____

Con: _____



Dealing with the Negative Coworker

Suggestions for keeping the negative people around you from pulling you down to their level:

- Recite out loud all you have to be thankful for.
- Don't let little stuff get to you. If it doesn't matter in 24 hours, just let it go.
- Sing good Christian songs to yourself.
- Remember that you know the end of the story - Jesus wins.
- Say something positive every time that negative coworker says something negative.
- Don't spend any more time with a negative person than you have to, or than God directs you to!

Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words. (Proverbs 23:9)