



Zoom Bible Study ~ Improving Your Relationships

Session 4 ~ February 2, 2021

Biblical Principle #10 ~ Humble Yourself

Humility is certainly an important lesson we can learn through difficult relationships.

How can you humble yourself? Give some examples.

Notice the benefits that come to those who humble themselves:

Luke 14:11: For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

1 Peter 5:6: Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

These verses promise that we will be lifted up and we will be exalted when we humble ourselves.

Here are the ten principles we've looked at:

#1 – Put Others First

#6 – Be a Good Listener

#2 – Rejoice and Weep with Others

#7 – Be Dependable

#3 – Go the Extra Mile

#8 – Be Loyal

#4 – Love Unconditionally

#9 – Put on Compassion

#5 – Speak Kind Words

#10 – Humble Yourself

Jesus summed it up so beautifully when he said, “*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets*” ([Matthew 7:12](#)). We call it the Golden Rule, and it works as good today as it ever has. The more you put yourself in the other person's shoes, the better your relationships will be.

We need to incorporate these principles into our lives, regardless of whether or not other people do the same thing or appreciate what we've done or change their behavior as a result. These are our responsibilities to the relationships of our lives, if we want to be fully obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Don't use the bad behavior of others as an excuse for failing to practice what you know is God's will for you. God will honor you for doing what you are supposed to do, regardless of the other person or persons involved.

Dealing with Difficult Types of People

Now we will address some specific types of relationships that we encounter – on our jobs, at our churches, in our homes and families, etc. We will look at specific types of people who can be very difficult to deal with and see which of our ten principles would best apply. Whether we encounter them on our jobs or elsewhere, if we don't know how to respond and relate to these difficult types, we'll fail to be that “light in a dark world,” which is our calling as believers.

Dealing with the Lazy Person

One of the more common types of difficulties we encounter – particularly with co-workers – is the person who is lazy and doesn't pull his or her share of the workload. Have you ever worked or lived with someone who fits this description? What kind of reactions did that relationship generate in you – at least at times?

- Resentment
- Anger
- A desire to get even
- Less motivation to do your own work
- A tendency to talk about that person in derogatory ways
- A decision to do nothing more than what was required of you - no more "Mr. Nice Guy!"
- Sarcastic remarks to the person

Please realize that God's principles in these relationships may be far more than you would ever do on your own. The good news is that he empowers us to do what he requires us to do, because of the Holy Spirit within us.

Check the situations below which would indicate it is time to "speak-the-truth-in-love" to this lazy person:

- You are sick and tired of doing this lazy person's work and you realize you are going to explode if you don't say something soon.
- This lazy co-worker 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 co-worker, and it's time they knew the real story.
- You realize that until this lazy person truly changes, he or she will continue to inflict harm on you and others, and will never become the person that he or she could be.

- You realize that you are now enabling this lazy person 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, you know it is time to take some action.

Before you can speak the truth in love, your motive has to be right.

Optional Approaches for the Lazy Person

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

1. Allow the problem to surface 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.

Pros	Cons

2. If letting the work go undone would be harmful to some innocent people like customers, have a direct discussion or confrontation with the co-worker to try to remedy the matter. If a confrontation doesn't work, eventually bring the matter to the attention of upper management.

Pros	Cons

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

Pros	Cons

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

Pros	Cons

5. Approach the lazy person privately and try to solve the problem between the two of you. If that fails, go to one of the four approaches above or implement consequences for those over whom you have authority.

Pros	Cons

As you've considered the optional approaches that could be used in dealing with a lazy co-worker, I'm sure you realize that none of these is right or wrong. The situation will have to determine your course of action, depending on the people involved.

So, be sure to give these situations much, much prayer time, and constantly monitor your motives. What you must guard against is this build-up of bitterness which can quickly happen when we're dealing with lazy co-workers.

Hebrews 12:15 (ESV): "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled."



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