



Part 3

Big Idea

In this week's message, Pastor Dino provides biblical guidance on how to deal with difficult people. The quality of our lives is highly impacted by the quality of our relationships. He points out that the Bible tells us we will have difficulty with others, and that the cause of people problems is sin, shame, and selfishness. When we see our problems with people through God's perspective, it changes how we deal with conflict. In the Bible, the story of Joseph provides a great example of how to deal with people problems in a godly way. Joseph chose to be kind and reassuring while remembering that God's plan for His life was what mattered, not the plans of other people. As you deal with difficult people, make sure to take a step back to remember God has a plan for you, a promise for your future, and that His presence is always with you. When we replace sinful responses with fruits of the Holy Spirit such as love, patience and kindness, we move towards a life that is free from anger and hurt.

"Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people." – 2 Timothy 2:22-23 NLT

Discussion Questions

- Read 2 Timothy 2:22-23 above and talk about the good advice shared in this verse. How can applying these recommendations to your people problems improve the quality of your life and relationships?
- Pastor Dino described his "go-to move" for dealing with difficult people as taking a step back. Share your "go-to move" for dealing with challenging relationships that are in your life. Explain how this "go-to move" has or will help you. If you don't have a "go-to move" of your own, you may consider how other people have found success with theirs.
- Think about your most difficult relationship right now – perhaps it's a spouse, co-worker, neighbor, or sibling. Discuss how using your "go-to move" can change your attitude towards that relationship or situation so that you can be filled with the fruits of the Spirit such as joy, peace, love, and self-control.

Prayer Focus

As you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to be patient and kind when you have a difficult interaction with a person. Ask Him to reveal what is in you that contributes to your relationship issues and what you can do to improve the relationship. Pray for those people you find difficult and for God to make a change in your heart towards them.

Next Step

Identify your "go-to move" so that when you have a difficult interaction with someone, you are ready to respond to them more like Christ. Find a way this week to be a blessing to one of your difficult people, and see how it helps your relationship.

Leader Tip

If you haven't created a roster for your group yet this semester, take a few minutes to gather contact information – name, email, cell phone – from each of your group members. During the week, email the roster to your group and encourage them to pray for each other.