

GETTING ALONG WITH CHALLENGERS

Galatians 5:13-26 & James 4:2-7 • November 14, 2021
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INTRODUCTION:

- A. Dealing with family and friends during the holidays can be quite a challenge.
- B. We all must interact daily with difficult people... In all cases Jesus calls us to
"Love your neighbor as yourself." – Matthew 22:39
- C. ***The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants (such as)... hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy...and other sins like these. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.***
– Galatians 5:17-21

I. HOW TO KNOW WE ARE CHOOSING LOVE

- A. First, we must choose to be humble.
- Pride only leads to quarrels.*** – Proverbs 13:10
- As Scripture says, "God opposes the prideful but gives His grace to the humble." So, give yourself completely to God.*** – James 4:6b-7
- If you humble yourself before the Lord, He will lift you up.*** – James 4:10
- We expect that "others" will fulfill the needs we have.
 - We need to remember that God is the one who can fulfill our inner needs.
You don't have what you want (or need) because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it (your need met) because your motives are all wrong – you want only what will give you pleasure. – James 4:2b-3
 - When others fail, we often say hurtful things.
Get rid of all bitterness and angry rage (or silent rage). Never shout harsh words, insults, cursing or any type of rude or hurtful talk (even under our breath).
– Ephesians 4:31
 - We need to watch our tongue.
Your tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do! Just like a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire, your tongue is also, a dangerous fire. – James 3:5
- B. In our humility we will ask the Holy Spirit to change our heart towards a challenger.
"Rid yourself of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit (towards them)." – Ezekiel 18:31
- C. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help manage our mouth.
Lord help me control my tongue; and help me be careful about what I say. – Psalm 141:3
Jesus: "For whatever is in your heart determines what you say." – Matthew 12:34

CONCLUSION: