

Date:

Podcast Worksheet
Living with a DC (Difficult Customer)
Hanging in There with People Who are Messy

Scriptural Texts:

Psalms 39:1; 141:3; Proverbs 19:11; Romans 15:1, 7; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 4:7

Main Points:

1. Successfully handling DCs requires a healthy identity where our self-worth is based in Christ.
2. We need to avoid the wrong goals: Changing the other person or forcing justice.
3. Our DCs are God's project, not ours. He's in charge of getting justice and changing hearts.
4. The only person we have a chance to control is ourselves.
5. We must accept that others are selfish and will always choose to live the way they see fit.
6. *God give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other. Reinhold Niebuhr*
7. We need to adopt the right goals: Making sure we are not being part of the problem by acting like a victim, and that we are doing what God asks of us.
8. We do not need to react to every offense. Sometimes the wisest thing is to let it go.
9. Doing the right thing, is always the right thing to do.
10. Don't get tripped up on the, "but they don't deserve it," issue. No one deserves mercy.
11. Bearing with someone means we are patient, loving, persevering in the relationship.
12. Bearing with DCs requires the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit working in us.
13. We need to share our thoughts and needs, but in a respectful manner.
14. When things are tough, we need to go to God, not battle harder with our DC.
15. Forgiveness must be our regular response to DCs, and confession our response to our sin.
16. God is the cause of our love. When we need more, we can ask for more and he will supply it.

Questions:

1. What are some victim or sinful responses you have chosen in the past? What are some God-honoring ways you have responded?

2. How can you choose to be merciful rather than judgmental?

3. Who do you need to forgive? Are you willing to do so now?

Prayer of Response:

Lord God, I know you are aware of my struggle with _____. The problem seems to continue, no matter what I do. I want your healing, so I choose to forgive _____ for the pain they've caused me. I release them to you. Give me a new mind and perspective about them and renew my love. In Jesus name, amen.

Commitment: After prayerful meditation on this podcast, I am going to _____
