

# GIVE ME A HIGHER LOVE

## 1Corinthians 13:4-5 (NLT)

- Life is all about learning to love.
- One of the ways God builds our love is by testing it – putting us around some VDP's (Very Draining People).

*Very Draining People (VDP's) Include:*

1. Difficult People
  2. Demanding People
  3. Disappointing People
  4. Destructive People
- Question – “*Who are some of the ‘VDP’s’ in my life?*”
  - It takes learning to love at a “higher level’ to deal with the “VDP’s” in life.
    - “*Love is not . . . rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.*”  
(1 Corinthians 13:5 NLT)

**“LOVE IS NOT RUDE” SO WE MUST BE:**

### TACTFUL RATHER THAN JUST TRUTHFUL

- Applying this principle helps us deal with “Difficult People.”
- Question – “*What types of ‘rudeness’ irritate me the most?*”
- When people are difficult we must refuse to be difficult back.

*Overcoming Rudeness Requires:*

- **LISTENING SYMPATHETICALLY**
  - **Interrupting people while they are talking is rude.**
  - “*Answering before listening is both stupid and rude.*” (Proverbs 18:13 Msg)
- **RESPONDING TACTFULLY**
  - “*Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don’t yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.*” (Ephesians 4:31-32)
  - **Profanity requires “zero intelligence.”**
  - “Rudeness is a weak man’s imitation of strength.” (Eric Hoffer)
- **SPEAKING ENCOURAGINGLY**

- “A wise mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.” (Proverbs 16:21 TEV)
- **The way we say something determines how it’s received.**
- **Tact and “tone of voice” always go together.**
- **When people say something ugly we can: 1) attack them (which puts us below them), 2) get even with them (which puts us even with them), or 3) say something nice to them (which puts us above them).**

**“LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY” SO WE MUST BE:**

### **UNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN DEMANDING**

- **Applying this principle helps us deal with “Demanding People.”**
- *“Your attitude should be same that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God. He made Himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.” (Philippians 2:5-7 NLT)*
- **One of our greatest tests of character is how we treat the people who serve us.**
- **The secret of receiving great service is treating those who are serving with respect.**
- *“Believers shouldn’t curse anyone or be quarrelsome, but they should be gentle and show courtesy to everyone.” (Titus 3:2)*
- **We need to be kind and courteous even to the people that we live with.**
- **The more we understand about a person, the more patient we will be with them.**
- **Question – “How do we become more understanding of ‘Demanding People’ in our life?”**

*Understanding Someone Requires Knowing Something About Their:*

- **BACKGROUND** – the experiences and formative factors of their life
  - **Instead of focusing on “how far people have to go” we need to focus on “how far they’ve come.”**
- **BATTLES** - the emotional, physical and spiritual issues they are still trying to overcome
- **BURDENS** – the problems they are struggling with in their life and relationships
- *“A man’s wisdom gives him patience. It is his glory to overlook an offense.” (Proverbs 16:4 NLT)*
- The Golden Rule - *“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31 NIV)*

- Overcoming “Demanding People” requires “being tender without surrender.”

“LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE” SO WE MUST BE:

### GENTLE RATHER THAN JUDGMENTAL

- Applying this principle helps us deal with “Disappointing People.”
- “If someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again.” (Galatians 6:1 NCV)
- We need to have “tough conversations” with people in a “gentle way.”
  - “Right” + “Rude” = “Wrong”
- “Each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on each other.” (Rom 14:12-13)
- There is a big difference between “using our judgment” and “being judgmental.”
- “Kind words heal and help. But cutting words wound and maim.” (Proverbs 15:4 Msg)
- We need to be seeking to bring healing and help to others with our words.

“LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS” SO WE MUST BE:

### DELETING RATHER THAN REPEATING

- Applying this principle helps us deal with “Destructive People.”
- Typically when we get hurt we “repeat” that hurt: 1) Emotionally in our minds, 2) Relationally as a weapon, and 3) Verbally by telling other people

*When People Have Wronged Us We Shouldn't:*

- **REMEMBER IT**
  - “Overlook an offense and bond a friendship; fasten on to a slight and—good-bye, friend!” (Proverbs 17:9 Msg)
- **REHEARSE IT**
  - “Do not bear a grudge against others. But settle your differences with them so you will not commit a sin because of them.” (Leviticus 19:17 TEV)
  - “Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.” (Eph 4:26-27)
  - Whenever you “rehearse” something you begin to “resemble” it.
- **REPEAT IT**

- **We shouldn't repeat our hurts: 1) in our minds, 2) in relational fights, or 3) to other people.**
- *"Whoever forgives someone's sin makes a friend, but gossiping about the sin breaks up friendships."* (Prov 17:9)
- *"Gossip is spread by wicked people. They stir up trouble and they break up friendships."* (Proverbs 16:28 TEV)
- **Question – "What are we to do when others hurt us?"**
- JESUS - *"If you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop, leave it, and let it go, in order that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive you your own failings and shortcomings and let them drop."* (Mark 11:25 Amp)
- **Forgiveness is not "forgetting" but "letting go" of the offense.**
- *"Hate stirs up trouble, but love forgives all offenses."* (Prov 10:12)
- *"When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it."* (Proverbs 19:11 TEV)
- *"You are only hurting yourself with anger."* (Job 18:4 TEV)
- *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."* (Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT)
- **Question – "What is the Lord primarily communicating to me through this message?"**
- **HOMEWORK**  
*This Week I Will Be:*
  1. Tactful with the following "Difficult People" –
  2. Understanding with the following "Demanding People" –
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  3. Gentle with the following "Disappointing People" –
  4. Forgiving towards the following "Destructive People" –

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