

## Living Holy in an Unholy World

MMBC

November 8, 2017

Lesson 7

Memory Verse: 3:2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Review: Living with Focus

Lesson 6 When People Run You the Wrong Way

When Jimmy Johnson took over as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, they had been on a downward spiral. Within a few years he rebuilt the organization and took them to the Super Bowl. The next year he did it again. After winning the second Super Bowl, what did Jerry Jones do? Did he give him a raise? No, **he fired him**. They had rebuilt a dynasty. However, they couldn't get along. They parted company. They rubbed each other the wrong way!

As we go through life, some people will rub us the wrong way. Also, there will be times when you find that you rub someone else the wrong way.

What traits in other people usually bother you? What traits about you bother other people?

Do you tend to write off people who have those kinds of traits before you get to know them? Why or why not?

What is your contribution?

Into the Lesson

Read Colossians 3: 12-17

Let's talk about how to diffuse the situation. Notice Paul's approach.

Notice verse 12. Paul reminds US that we are God's chosen people, dearly loved by him and expected to live holy lives. This is our identity, and it should determine how we act. When we relate to other people, we should say to ourselves, "I don't know where this person is spiritually, but I want my attitudes and actions to reflect Christ." If others want to stir up trouble, that's their choice. You can take the high road to solving the conflict instead of getting even.

Consider 1 Samuel 24:1-7

What did David have the opportunity to do?

What kept him from doing it?

Taking the high road is a lot easier when we seek to please God.

In Colossians 3:12 Paul says, “Clothe yourself with.....”

By this Paul means putting on the right behavior. Put on:

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience

What do you do if you don't feel like putting these things on?

Your feelings may be sending you in one direction, but the Spirit of God will move you in the right direction.

The Bible never tells us that we will be judged according to our feelings. It says, repeatedly, we will be judged by our actions. You can't always control the way you feel, but you can control the way you act.

Conflict Resolution begins with facing the issue. It doesn't mean you can sweep conflict under the rug. It means you deal with conflict, you put your feelings aside and put a layer of holiness between you and the other person.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Read Micah 6:8. What does Micah tell us about how we should treat others?
- Read Jeremiah 6:16. How does this help you deal with difficult people?
- Read Luke 6:27-28. What does Jesus say about our actions rather than our feelings?

According to Galatians 6:9-10, what should be our motivation for treating others well?

A few years ago we were showered with a new expression, “WWJD”. Those acronyms stand for “what would Jesus do?”

Whatever you are doing or saying should be filtered through what would Jesus do?

We need to make sure our conversations are filled with words that lift people up instead of tearing them down. What is Paul saying in Colossians 3:14-16?

Include Christ in every conversation!

You have to experience personal peace before you can show it. The key to developing peace in our relationship is to develop peace within ourselves first.

The Bible promise that we can experience the overwhelming presence of God's peace.

Read Isaiah 26:3

John 14:1

Philippians 4:7

Once you experience God's peace, you will lose all interest in conflict, you will lose any desire to be judgmental, and you will lose the tendency to be on edge.



**THINK OF ONE RELATIONSHIP THAT YOU NEED TO APPLY THESE PRINCIPLES TO.  
PRAY SPECIALLY FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT PERSON.**