
STAYING UNSTUCK FROM STICKY PEOPLE

Colossians 3:12-15

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“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.”
~Colossians 3:12-15

Conflict with fellow humans is almost inevitable in a fallen world. Certain individuals are more difficult to get along with than others. So do we just write some relationships off? What sort of advice does the Bible offer on how to navigate relationships with prickly people? Here are ten reminders that will help us stay unstuck from sticky people:

- It is sometimes impossible to be on “good terms” with a person.
- There are times when the best course is to flee, and to cut off the relationship.
- Part of the problem in a relationship may very likely be how my “stuff” interacts with their “stuff.”
- Few people wake up wanting to be difficult or unreasonable; their patterns of life probably reflect some wounding or distortion that pains them.
- Since our warfare is not primarily against “flesh and blood,” some of people’s behavior and personality is spiritual in nature.
- Despite what I may think, “I really do not want anyone to get what they deserve.”
- There can be only one standard for how debtors are to be treated.

- God's grace and affection are fairly indiscriminate—poured out on all people, regardless of their initiative or response.
- God's kindness leads us to repentance. More real change in people will result from kindness and mercy, than from harshness and anger.
- It is only possible to have relationship with a person, not with what that person has done to us.