Winning Friends & Influencing People, part 2
Proverbs: Wisdom for Life, Part 4
September 3rd, 2017

Why Winning Friends & Influencing People Is So Important

People have the right to judge our Lord by the way we LIVE. If people don’t like you, they will want NOTHING to do with our God; we’ll have no INFLUENCE.

Six Traits To Live By

1. **LOVE** – It’s an action; it’s choosing to give more that we get in our relationships

2. **DEPENDABILITY** – Fulfilling our responsibilities and keeping our commitments

3. **HUMILITY** – Treating others as a honored guest and not having to always win

4. **THICK SKIN**

   If people have to walk on eggshells around you, they will walk AROUND you & not WITH you.

   - Have to learn to overlook SOCIAL, slights & PERSONAL hurts
     
     Proverbs 19:11 (NIV) “A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.”

     We must CHOOSE to get over it

   Until you accept RESPONSIBILITY for your response, you will never develop thick skin

   **Things that have destroyed relationships:**
   
   - Not being properly THANKED or RECOGNIZED
   
   - Not being INVITED to some event
   
   - Unintentionally being HURT or EMBARRASSED by someone

   - Learn to OVERLOOK hurtful words

     Need to be wise enough not to SAY hurtful words & big enough to OVERLOOK hurtful words
     
     Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 (NIV) “Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.”

     When people say dumb and stupid things, try and see the HEART behind it

     Jesus told us we are to forgive as we have been forgiven
     
     Matthew 6:12 (NIV) “Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.”

5. **VERBAL** Etiquette

   Knowing the right thing to SAY in the right SITUATION
   
   Ecclesiastes 3:7 (NIV) “…a time to be silent and a time to speak.”

   Proverbs 17:27-28 (NIV) “A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.”

   Proverbs 27:14 (NIV) “If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.”
• Learn when to butt **OUT** and when to butt **IN**
  - **MEDDLER** – Proverbs 26:17 (NIV) “Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.”
  - **TATTLE-TALE** – Proverbs 30:10 (NLT) “Never slander a worker to the employer, or the person will curse you, and you will pay for it.”
  - **KNOW-IT-ALL** – Proverbs 18:2 (GN) “A fool does not care whether he understands a thing or not; all he wants to do is show how smart he is.”

• Learn the sticking power of **ANGRY** words
  When you are angry, don’t say what you are **THINKING**
  Proverbs 15:1 (NIV) “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
  “Speak when you are angry, and you will give the best speech you will ever regret.” Lawrence Peters

• Learn the right **WORDS** for the right **SITUATION**
  - Dealing with a **FOOL** – walk away, don’t engage in discussion
    Proverbs 23:9 (NLT) “Don’t waste your breath on fools, for they will despise the wisest advice.”
  - Dealing with someone who is **ANXIOUS** – give kind and encouraging words
    Proverbs 12:25 (NIV) “An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.”
  - Dealing with a **HEAVY** heart – need to share tears with them
    Proverbs 25:20 (NIV) “Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.”
    Romans 12:15 (NIV) “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

6. Take the **FIRST** step
• Be the first to say “**HI**”
  Proverbs 18:1 (NLT) “Unfriendly people care only about themselves; they lash out at common sense.”

• When the relationship goes south, take the first step toward **RECONCILIATION**
  Proverbs 25:21-22 (GN) “If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them a drink. You will make them burn with shame, and the Lord will reward you.”

**My Next Step Today Is:**
  □ I am asking God to help me develop thick skin by overlooking others hurtful words & actions toward me
  □ I am asking God to help me develop verbal etiquette by knowing the right thing to say at the right time
  □ There is someone I need to take the first step with in repairing our relationship. I will do that this week.
  □ I am interested in being baptized on Sept 24th **(this will be the last baptism of the summer)**

**Next week:** Join us as we look at wisdom from Proverbs on **Financial Freedom**. Bring a friend!
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Things that have destroyed relationships:
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