

The Art of Getting Along Together

Romans 15:5-7

- The world seems to get coarser and more offensive every day.
- Not only do many people not get along together, it seems that they don't want to get along.
- A divided kingdom was the prelude to the fall of Israel.
- A divided church will always result in lost souls!
- What can we do to get along better together?

Use A Lot Of Salt!

- Disciples are the salt of the earth – Mat. 5:13.
- Graceful Christian speech should be well salted – Col. 4:6.
- Meaning biblical and respectful; not degrading and destructive – compare 2 Tim. 2:14-18.
- We can alienate others and ruin our influence in a heartbeat when we do not control our tongues – Jas. 4:9-18.
- “How” to answer requires the following:
- Knowledge of what to say – grounded in God's word, 1 Pet. 4:11.
- A goal of edification – Eph. 4:29 (necessary edification – NKJV).
- Meekness and fear – 1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:24-26.
- Proper knowledge must be used appropriately – Pro 15:1-4.

Watch Out for Goat Rustlers!

- Don't allow anyone to “get your goat”!
- Eph 4:26-27 (CEV) “Don't get so angry that you sin. Don't go to bed angry and don't give the devil a chance.”
- Compare Psa. 4:4 (LITV) “Tremble and do not sin. Speak within your own heart on your bed and be still. Selah.”
 1. Unjust anger is wrong.
 2. Excessive anger is also a sin.
 3. Personal anger, at the person rather than the conduct, will lead to sin if not resolved.
 4. Selfish anger walks hand in hand with sin.
- Pro. 14:16-17 “A wise man feareth, and departeth from

evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident. He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.”

Sometimes It's OK to Act Like Children

- The Lord Jesus said that this is the route to greatness and to heaven! – Mat. 18:1-4; also 18:14.
- Children of God – Mat. 5:9; Eph. 5:1.
- A fool proof recipe for loving life and seeing good days! – 1 Pet. 3:10-11 (Psa. 34:12-15).
- On the part of Christians, peace with others should always be our choice – Rom. 12:18.
- Humility in the sight of the Lord will prevent us from wronging our brethren! – Jas. 4:10-11.
- 1 Pet. 5:5 – God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.
- Proud people value themselves, but humble people value others.
- Jesus valued us – Rom. 5:6-8.
- Christians value each other – Phil. 2:1-3; Jn. 13:34-35.
- God values all people, and so must we – 1 Tim. 2:1-6.
- This is why we seek to lead others to Christ!

Decision...

Rom. 14:16-19

- Will you pass the salt?
- Not let anyone get your goat?
- Behave a little like children?
- Then, we can get along together!

Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

2Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 2:16 But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

2Ti 2:17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

2Ti 2:18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

2Ti 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

2Ti 2:25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

2Ti 2:26 and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Pro 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Pro 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

Pro 15:3 The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Pro 15:4 A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Mat 18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Mat 18:2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the

midst of them,

Mat 18:3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 18:4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

1Pe 3:10 For "HE WHO WOULD LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.

1Pe 3:11 LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Jas 4:11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Php 2:1 Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

Php 2:2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

Php 2:3 *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.