

Loving Difficult (Irregular) People

Led by Nance Anderton

Warning: This is probably NOT going to go the way you were thinking?!

Challenge: "Don't let others decide who you are – only God gets to name us – Beloved!"

NOT the temporary person who is in & out of your life ; occasional interruption; annoying **IRREGULAR person** – hurtful, intentional, impossible to love, tried everything & it's not working. They make you angry, emotional & defensive

Characteristics:

- *Cannot please them
- *Ignore you
- *Impossible to communicate
- *Will not accept responsibility
- *Easily offended
- *Critical
- *Cannot express love or approval

Our natural human responses:

- *Hurt
- *Defensive
- *Withdrawal
- *Anger

Anger

- *Anger is not a sin
- *Venting in a damaging way IS a sin
- *Dangerous when angry feelings control my life
- *Beware of not allowing God to work or forgive through me

Discuss:

1. "One aspect of maturity is the ability to control anger, to work through differences of opinion & to grow both in dealing with & working through conflict; thus, exemplifying self-control." Words that Hurt/Words that Heal
2. "Selfless love is always costly. Fear can't afford it. Pride doesn't understand it. But friends never forget it." Live in Grace

Let's Acknowledge –

1. This relationship constantly disappoints, hurts deeply & rejects you.
2. Perceive the person as “handicapped”, insecure & has low self-worth
3. We are less vulnerable when we accept the FACT that they CANNOT provide the love & empathy we wish for.
4. It hurts less to expect nothing than to hope in vain.
5. We need to be free to live the life God intended for us!!

Encouragement:

*Ephesians 4: 29-32

- *I can CHOOSE to be a channel
- *I can become vulnerable & humble
- *I can love without bitterness
- *I can be peaceful & tolerant
- *This is NOT a personality type but FRUIT of the SPIRIT
- *The believer's responsibility is to LISTEN & CARE in the name of Jesus

The issue becomes about OUR SURVIVAL!!

- ***ADMIT** you are angry & hurt
- ***RECOGNIZE** my need for forgiveness – my angry spirit & harboring an “attitude”
- ***ASK** God for forgiveness
- *Let god & **LET GOD** deal with the other person

God may NOT work the way you hope or expect

Suffering is one of the most effective ways God has to make His children usable

My irregular person might remain the same BUT I'VE CHANGED!!

Resources –

1. "Irregular People" by Joyce Landorf Heatherly
2. "Balcony People" by Joyce Landorf Heatherly
3. "Love Does" by Bob Goff
4. "Words That Hurt / Words That Heal" by Carole Mayhall
5. The Holy Bible

Loving Difficult (Irregular) People

What kind of people?

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| *difficult | *impossible to love | *cannot please them |
| *hurtful | *intentionally mean | *always someone else's fault |
| *easily offended | *will not listen | *hurtful |

Let's Acknowledge:

1. This relationship disappoints, hurts deeply & I feel rejected.
2. It hurts less to expect nothing than to hope in vain.
3. We NEED to be FREE to LIVE the LIFE God intended for us ☺

The issue is my SURVIVAL

*Admit you are angry & hurt

*Recognize my need for forgiveness – my angry spirit & “attitude”

*Ask God for forgiveness

*Let god & let God deal with the other person

ACCEPTANCE

***Surrender to God**

***“I can't but God CAN**

***LEAVE the person in God's Hands**

Know it and CLAIM it!

*Ephesians 4: 2-3

*Ephesians 4: 29-32

I CAN.....

CHOOSE to be a channel

LOVE without bitterness

BE peaceful & tolerant

LISTEN and CARE

My irregular person might remain the same but I've changed!!