

# THE Big 3

EPISODE: 140

TITLE: How to Handle Annoying People this Holiday

You are not called to suffer outright abuse. Never. But sometimes it can feel like dealing with certain relatives is a life-sentence to ongoing misery each holiday season.

Here are three key things to believe and consider:

1. **There have always been and will always be people that rub us the wrong way** or irritate us. This is not *necessarily* a sin issue on their part-or ours. We all have unique perspectives in life and don't always see eye-to-eye with everyone else on every topic. Don't make disagreements with another person a bigger issue than it needs to be. Humble yourself and listen well as you seek to first understand another person before asserting your opinions.
2. **Believe that God loves those people that offend you as much as he loves you.** Crazy isn't it?! If God loves them and shows them grace, what types of response to this person can you exhibit to further show them the heart of God? This goes for Christians... non-Christians... everyone in your life. Believe it or not, these types of hard situations within our family dynamics are often fertile ground for healing and restoration. It just may not be the right time, over a holiday meal, to do the necessary "surgery".
3. **Start by looking for the "issue behind the issue" in your own heart.** And let the gospel truth that you are perfectly loved and accepted by the glorious creator-God of the universe settle your need for constant approval from others. Then, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any issues of sin or unbelief and hurts in the other person that may be causing them to speak or act out in an offensive manner or pattern.

In love, seek to bear with that person while understanding that, you too, are not perfect and live with unbelief as well. If appropriate, set up a time later, in private, to discuss the issue together in a less volatile atmosphere.

Breathe... God's got this.

Thanks for listening...we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath

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