

EPISODE: 597

TITLE: **Courage, Compassion, and Difficult People**

Life is full of relationships. And relationships can be easy or hard—sometimes *both* with the same person! But the difficulties we experience grow *us* and offer valuable opportunities to apply the gospel with others, helping them move from unbelief to belief in a given situation.

Here are 3 things to believe and consider about dealing with difficult people...

1. **It is not your job to try and label and fix everyone you experience as difficult.** Who knows, you may be the “difficult person” on someone else’s list! God is great, and you don’t have to be in control. Seek to understand what they are going through and why they are the way they are. Look for ways you could serve this person (in the moment or later) that would show them the value you place on them—mirroring how God sees them.
2. **Difficult people present their need for the gospel very clearly!** They make it pretty obvious. When you listen, ask good questions, and seek to understand “the thing behind the thing”, it is *always* a gospel issue that leads to any of us being difficult or argumentative. What are they believing and *not* believing (about you, themselves, others, and God) right now? How could you help them to see and understand the truth?
3. **Seek to have your own heart in a place of love before attempting to deal with a difficult person.** What is your motive for wanting to address this person and how you are experiencing them? Is it focused on their good and God’s glory... or on yourself? Often when we take the time necessary to gently address a person in a way that they can hear and receive, a bond of trust is built that can change how they act and how we respond to them.

Also: If you are interested in being coached by Caesar and his wife Tina in a lifestyle of discipleship and mission, new cohorts are starting soon... Start experiencing greater spiritual freedom and relational peace today!

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

~*Caesar*