



GRACE IN THE MIDDLE OF WAR

Name one or two people in your life that cause you frustration. You know the people you would rather avoid. Avoidance is a technique that might work, unless that person lives with you or is a relative. Then what do you do?

1. Motivation to Love

A. The main point of the Gospel is service (Mark 10:45). How can you best serve them? Jesus came to serve the worst kind of people (1 Timothy 1:15, 16). In his mind God had served him so he should serve others.

B. How did Christ serve you?

-He pursued you in love

-He gave his life up for you

-He shed His blood for you

-He forgave you

-He cleansed you and is cleansing you

-He does not hold our past against us

-He changed your bad ways and your bad attitude

-He gave you the Spirit to help you

-He promised to finish the work He started in you (Phil. 1:6)

-He has a place for you in heaven and He is praying for you even now

2. What About Jerks Who Won't Change?

A. Christ did not give up on us. Romans 5:8. Christ died for us *while* we yet sinners.

B. It is inherent in sheep to wander and sanctification is a process. Shuffling is better than nothing. It is a lifelong process.

C. Individuals obviously know if you are encouraging them and loving them

D. How much gratitude are you showing for them?

- E. How are you calling attention to evidences of grace?
- F. If God is the One who is ultimately doing the work, should you be discouraged or encouraged?

WHAT IF THE JERK WON'T TALK OR ALWAYS PUTS ME DOWN?

Much of the difficulty in communication comes from "Self-Righteousness".

1. Am I confident that I can look at facts objectively and fairly?
2. Am I quick to assign motives when I feel wronged?
3. Do I litigate in my mind why "I am right" and "they are wrong?"
4. Do I ask questions with built in assumptions that I believe will be proven right? Or, do I ask impartial questions that are not set-ups to prove my desired out-comes?
5. Is my main concern "Who is to blame?"