

Introduction: Observations from people-watching: one person listens and the other person talks.

Often, the person who talks:

- Is very animated
- Talks about how unfair, insensitive, selfish, ungrateful, wrong someone else has been in the relationship

Often, the person who listens:

- Nods approvingly
- Comforts and agrees

Principle #7: Right relationships are always more important than being right

Disclaimer:

It's not about moral issues, theological issues, or condoning a behavior. It's about normal, everyday relationships with other people that you love and care about.

The key to practicing this principle:

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NASB)

Understand you are:

1. **Chosen:** you are _____

2. **Holy:** you are _____

3. **Beloved:** you are _____

How should you treat people?

- With compassion
- With kindness
- With humility
- With gentleness
- With patience
- Bearing with one another
- Forgiving each other

Practice:

1. Refuse to see conflict as _____. Instead, embrace conflict as God's _____ for learning and/or loving others.
2. Be willing to _____ fifty percent, or more, of a problem – regardless of what you think is _____.
3. Ask yourself, “Why is it so important to be _____ right or get your way in a situation?”

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the key to practicing the principle: "right relationships are more important than being right?" Which component is hardest for you to accept? Why?
2. What is the difference between empathy and compassion?
3. Describe a time when your desire to be "right" affected a relationship you cared about. Looking back, what could you have done differently?
4. Why is it so difficult to embrace conflict as God's "tutor" for learning and/or loving others?
5. Are you willing to own fifty percent or more of a problem in a relationship? Why?
6. What is behind the desire to prove that you are right?