

HOW TO GET ALONG BETTER WITH EVERYONE

SCRIPTURE - Proverbs 22:8–11 He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, And the rod of his anger will fail. ⁹ He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor. ¹⁰ Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease. ¹¹ He who loves purity of heart And has grace on his lips, The king will be his friend.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Most of us do not like conflict.
- B. We like to get along with everyone in all our relationships.
- C. The book of proverbs gives us a lot of information on how to get along with others.
- D. We will be looking at twelve ways to get along with others from the book of Proverbs.

1. Before you say anything to anyone, ask yourself three things:

- A. Is it true? Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.
- B. Is it kind? Proverbs 19:22 What is desired in a man is kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar.
- C. Is it beneficial? Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.
- D. Is it necessary? Proverbs 12:23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.
- E. Is this the right time? Proverbs 15:23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

2. Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully.

- A. Proverbs 22:26–27 Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, One of those who is surety for debts; 27 If you have nothing with which to pay, Why should he take away your bed from under you?
- B. Proverbs 17:18 A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, And becomes surety for his friend.
- C. Proverbs 20:25 It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, And afterward to reconsider his vows.

3. Never miss an opportunity to compliment or to say something encouraging to someone.

- A. Proverbs 12:25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.
- B. Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.
- C. Proverbs 25:11–12 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. 12 Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

4. Refuse to talk negatively about others; don't gossip and don't listen to gossip.

- A. Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.
- B. Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.
- C. Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

5. Have a forgiving view of people. Believe that most people are doing the best they can.

- A. Proverbs 19:11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression.
- B. Proverbs 25:21–22 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; 22 For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

6. Keep an open mind; discuss, but don't argue. (It's possible to disagree without being disagreeable.)

- A. Proverbs 17:14 The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.
- B. Proverbs 26:21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.
- C. Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression.

7. Forget about counting to 10. Count to 1,000 before doing or saying anything that could make matters worse.

- A. Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.
- B. Proverbs 15:18 A wrathful man stirs up strife, But he who is slow to anger allays contention.
- C. Proverbs 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.
- D. Proverbs 18:13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

8. Be a giver, not a getter (in everything).

- A. Proverbs 11:25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.
- B. Proverbs 28:27 He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.
- C. Proverbs 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.
- D. Proverbs 22:9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.

9. Be a true friend.

- A. Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.
- B. Proverbs 27:9–10 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel. 10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.
- C. Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

10. If someone criticizes you, see if there is any truth to what they are saying. If so, make changes. If there is no truth to the criticism, ignore it and live so that no one will believe the negative remark.

- A. Proverbs 5:13 I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!
- B. Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.

11. Cultivate your sense of humor; laughter is the shortest distance between two people.

- A. Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.
- B. Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.

12. Do not seek so much to be consoled, as to console. Do not seek so much to be understood, as to understand. Do not seek so much to be loved, as to love. Francis of Assisi

- A. Do not seek so much to be consoled, as to console - Proverbs 22:9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.
- B. Do not seek so much to be understood, as to understand - Proverbs 18:2 A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.
- C. Do not seek so much to be loved, as to love - Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

CONCLUSION

- A. How well are you getting along with people?
- B. How's your relationship with God.