

"A Person People Love"

Allan Pole on Sunday morning October 7th, 2018



Theme: Getting along with people starts with you.

Text: Ephesians 4:2

Here's a thought: A gentleman is someone who can disagree without being disagreeable.

D.L. Moody (1837-1899) was one of the greatest Christian evangelists who ever lived. He could hold a crowd in the palm of his hand, won thousands of converts to the faith, and established several religious institutions. Yet he never displayed the pompous air of self-importance that so many famous evangelists did in that era. He was a tolerant, understanding man who rarely criticized. One of his famous sayings was, "Right now I'm having so much trouble with D.L. Moody that I don't have time to find fault with the other fellow."

Based on that single quotation, I wish that I could have had D.L. Moody for a friend. It would have been relaxing to be around him, for he would have understood that the Lord and I are addressing my shortcomings. And by that very acceptance, he would have helped me to grow. D.L. Moody was a person people loved.

The Apostle Paul describes such a person in Ephesians 4:2:

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. NIV

Your relationships will flourish if you decide to:

Be Humble



When an abbot sought counsel from a rabbi regarding his declining monastery, the rabbi gave these parting words: "The Messiah is one of you." The abbot related these words to his monks, with a curious result. The monks started treating each other differently, lest one of them be the Messiah. Each man began treating himself differently, on the off chance that he was the Messiah. Soon the much-neglected monastery experienced an amazing renewal. Outsiders came to picnic on its lawn, stroll its paths, and worship in its chapel. Young men interacted with the older monks and began joining the monastery, until it was once again a vibrant place. That is what true community does. It attracts more and more people to its centre of warm, respectful relationships.

Pride is the chief cause of strife and tragedy, an undue sense of superiority. It keeps us from knowing God, from accepting His Lordship, alienates us from others and causes isolation and loneliness. The symptoms of pride are:

- stealing from God's glory and taking credit for gifts He has given us
- self-centredness
- a demanding spirit
- superiority
- sarcasm
- a judgmental, critical attitude
- impatience
- an unteachable spirit
- self-pity.

To gain victory over pride, you should desire its opposite: Christlikeness and humility. This is dependence on God, honesty about yourself, willingness to come to terms with your fears and failures. Humility brings healing and reconciliation.

A man and his dog were playing checkers when a friend dropped by. The friend was amazed and watched for a while. Finally, he said, "That's the most intelligent dog I have ever seen."

"He's not really that smart," replied the dog's humble owner. "I've beaten him five out of six games."

The Apostle Peter explains that humility is foundational to your relationships

with God and people in 1 Peter 5:5:

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." NIV

When Mike Lorelli was a top executive at Pizza Hut, one of his favourite people was Mary, the cleaning woman. He would stop and talk to her and spend as much time with her as anybody else he would bump into in the hallways of Pizza Hut's corporate offices. Later, as life often turns out, he learned that Mary's brother does his lawn and yard work. One day Mary's brother stopped him and said, "Mr. Lorelli, you're one of my favourite people in the world because you give time to my sister, Mary, who cleans in your building."

This is why Mike Lorelli is the way he is and what has really made him successful in business. An attitude that is willing to spend time with Mary is an attitude that will reach out and enfold everyone.

A humble person knows that he is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. A humble person knows he has shortcomings and has no grounds to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. A humble person is a lovable person.

How would people describe you? Do you compare yourself with others to measure your self-worth? Have you come to accept who you are, being content with that yet looking to grow and improve in whatever ways you can?

Your relationships will flourish if you decide to:

Be Humble

Be Gentle



Your relationships will flourish if you decide to cultivate courtesy, consideration and meekness within.

A gentleman is someone who can disagree without being disagreeable.

A pastor was on his way to visit a woman in the hospital. As he rode the elevator, he mulled over how he should approach her. She had made some wrong choices, which had landed her in the intensive care unit (I.C.U.).

Because of her sinful lifestyle, she was now in need of medical attention. She had violated the moral laws of God and was paying the price. The pastor knew he would have been theologically right to remind her that she was reaping what she had sown. But was this the best approach?

As he got off the elevator, he saw a sign that read: HIGH TECH, GENTLE TOUCH. The I.C.U. was filled with complicated, highly technical equipment that could do amazing things to save lives. But the words "gentle touch" suggested to him that patients are suffering people who need to be handled with tender loving care.

The Lord took a self-assured world leader and reduced him to the point that he became a useful servant. After first convincing Moses of his unfitness for leadership, God then was able to fit him into His plan. The Lord led Moses from the royal court of Pharaoh to the wilderness where he tended sheep for 40 years. Later, as leader of the people of Israel he is described in Numbers 12:1-3:

1 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. 2 "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this. 3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) NIV

Another one of the meekest men in history was John the Baptist. He was such a powerful figure that Josephus, the great Jewish historian, reports many years later when John's name was mentioned people still trembled at the thought of him. Jesus' eulogy of John was that he was "greater than any man born of woman." Yet when he saw the Christ, instead of giving a speech about his own great accomplishments, he sent his disciples to Jesus telling them, "He must increase but I must decrease." When asked who he was, he simply said, "I am nobody. I am to be heard, not to be seen. I am just a voice." Did you ever notice that David never describes his victory over Goliath in all of the Psalms? We live in a time of superlatives - the greatest evangelist, the greatest preacher, the greatest theologian, the greatest actor, the greatest athlete - we desire dignity and position. We want some title and to be addressed properly. No wonder Christ cannot be seen. Paul called himself "the least of all the apostles." Where is our meekness? Where is our gentleness?

Naturally we see a strong person as one who not only does what he wills but also bends others to do his will. The Biblical concept of meekness is quite different. Meekness in the Greek language is used to describe an animal which has been trained by its master. Wild and unruly animals are worthless but when trained they become meek or teachable and quiet. If we remember this background of the term we will see that meekness is strength under the control of God and that gentleness is true power.

Have you submitted yourself to the Master's training so that you can become gentle? Are you so committed to loving Jesus and loving others that you are learning how to become gentler?

Your relationships will flourish if you decide to:

Be Humble

Be Gentle

Be Patient



A Dutch proverb claims, "A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains."

Your relationships will flourish if you decide to be patient. To be patient is to bear with others' faults and idiosyncrasies.

We have been conditioned by our technical advancements to demand things at once. The push button has become our symbol, the open sesame to automatic service. As another has said: "Someone really guessed the right approach to our minds when he put the word "instant" on all the labels: instant coffee, tea, biscuits, cereal. A little boy, shopping with his mother in the supermarket picked up a box of something and brought it to her. "Oh, no honey," she said. "Put it back. You have to cook that."

Several elderly church members were being asked the secret of their longevity. "And why do you think God has permitted you to reach the age of 92?" one sweet lady was asked.

Without hesitation she responded, "To test the patience of my relatives."

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter admitted to having "unreasonable standards about punctuality. If Rosalynn were even a few minutes late there would be a furious exchange, and we would arrive at church or a friend's house still angry with each other. For 38 years it has been the most persistent cause of dissension between us."

One morning, he realized that it was his wife's birthday and he did not have a

gift. But he had a brilliant idea. He wrote a note: "Happy Birthday. As proof of my love, I will never again make an unpleasant comment about tardiness." The note was delivered with a kiss. This happened in 1982, and he is still keeping his promise. Both agree that it was the best birthday present he has ever given her.

A person people love is described in Galatians 5:22-26:

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. NIV

Can those closest to you say that you are patient? If not, what are you doing about it? Are you justifying it or are you asking the Holy Spirit to demonstrate patience through you?

A desert wanderer found a crystal spring of unsurpassed freshness. The water was so pure that he decided to bring some to his king. Barely satisfying his own thirst, he filled a leather bottle with the water and carried it many days in the desert sun before he reached the palace.

When he finally laid his offering at the feet of his leader, the water had become stale because of the old container in which it had been stored. But the king would not let his faithful subject even imagine that it was unfit for use. He tasted it with expressions of gratitude and delight, and the loyal man went away with a heart filled with gladness.

After he had gone, others sampled the water and expressed their surprise that the king had even pretended to enjoy it. "Ah," said he, "it was not the water I tasted, but the love that prompted the offering."

As you track love down to those who seem to enjoy more than their share you will observe that these people have certain characteristics in common.

Your relationships will flourish if you decide to:

Be Humble

Be Gentle

Be Patient

Getting along with people starts with you.

