

Kids Under Construction

Getting Along With Others

Lesson 3 (Boys & Girls)

Scripture: Matthew 5:44 - *“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”*

INTRODUCTION: No one gets along well with everyone they know. We are all created differently with different personalities. It is easy to love those who love you back. It is easy to be friends with those who are friendly to you. It is easy to pray for your loved ones. But Jesus went a step further when He was preaching His Sermon on the Mount. He gave instructions that we are not only to love our neighbors and loved ones, but we are to love, not hate, our enemies! The mark of a mature Christian is one who can show love toward someone who does not love you back.

I AVOID THOSE WHO CAUSE PROBLEMS

Proverbs 4:14-15 - *“. . .go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.”*

- A. Certain people
Sometimes the best way to get along with someone is to avoid them. If you know a certain person is just going to pick a fight with you, don't hang out with that person and you will avoid getting into a fight. Some people want to fight all the time. It is, sadly, their nature to do so. Avoid those people. God has so many wonderful things in store for you. Don't spend time fighting and arguing when you could spend that time happy and enjoying time with friends.
- B. Certain places and things
If you know that going to a certain place will cause you to be in a bad mood and not be nice to others, avoid going to that place. If playing a particular video game causes you to be irritable and impatient, you will eventually snap at someone and cause hurt feelings. Those are the kind of things you should avoid. If you cannot control your temper because of what you are doing or where you are going then avoid those things and places.
- C. Certain words
The statement *“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”* is as untrue as can be. Words DO hurt others. We must be careful to choose our words wisely. Careless words can hurt a person's feelings and cause them to be sad and upset. Be nice when speaking to

others. Don't talk bad about others to your friends. Don't listen to your friends talk bad about others to you. Remember, if they talk bad about someone to you, they will talk bad about you to someone else.

II BE FRIENDLY TO THOSE YOU KNOW

It is easy to be nice and friendly to your closest friends, but Jesus wants us to go a step further than that. We should be friendly to anyone we meet. Smile at others. You don't have to be "*best friends*" with everyone you know, but you should be friendly. You will be closer to some people, and just an acquaintance to others. If you are the one known for being friendly and nice, you won't be the one who is always in a fight.

III DON'T BE THE TATTLE-TALE

Proverbs 26:20 - ". . .*where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.*"

I Timothy 5:13 - ". . .*not only idle, but **tattlers** also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*"

The only reason there would be for you to "tell" on someone would be if there was danger involved. If you saw a person in danger, TELL AN ADULT. If YOU are in danger TELL AN ADULT. But, if you heard a person say something about another person it is not your responsibility to tell what you heard. Telling all you know about others and their business only starts fussing and fighting. Don't be the one that becomes labeled a "*tattle-tale*".

CONCLUSION: As you grow and mature as a Christian, you will become more wise in matters of getting along with others. Sometimes, to get along with someone, you must just keep your mouth shut. Other times, you need to say nice things. Everyone likes to hear nice things said about them. Find the good in all those you know and focus on that quality. If you want others to be nice to you, you must first be nice to them. Always talk to the Lord and ask Him for wisdom to be the Christian example He wants you to be.