

How to Deal with Difficult People?

Have you ever had to face difficult people in your life? Difficult people come in different forms and shapes. They are the Sherman Tanks, Howitzers, Snipers, Screamers, Complainers, Know-it-alls, and Naysayers. There are more, but you get the picture.

How do we usually deal with difficult people? Fight or flight. However, there is a better way. From the Letter of James, we can use “the wisdom from heaven” to deal with them.

1. **Keep cool** -- Don't get mad. Calm down and don't let them affect you. Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. (Jas 1:19)
2. **Keep silence** -- Control our tongues. Cursing, lying, boasting are from the devil. (Jas 3:1-12)
3. **Keep flexible** -- Be considerate and submissive. (Jas 3:17) Unlike others, a willow tree won't break after a typhoon deal to it's flexibility.
4. **Keep smiling** – Be pure, full of mercy, good fruit, impartial and sincere. (3:17) Have mercy on the difficult people. They have problems. Have pity on them but don't try to own their problems.

Let us pray: Merciful God, keep the difficult people away from us. If we have to face them, grant us your heavenly wisdom to successfully deal with them. Amen.

如何應付惡人？

你曾面對惡人嗎？他們像坦克車，逼擊炮、暗殺手；有時大叫大嚷，自以為是，凡事投訴，凡事否決；叫人難以捉摸，無所適從。

一般應付惡人的方法是決鬥或逃避。結果是兩敗俱傷。我們可以從雅各書中學習用「從上頭來的智慧」去應付他們，結果會更理想。

1. **保持冷靜** --- 不可動怒，不可與他們一般見識，要快快的聽，慢慢的說，慢慢的動怒。(雅 1:19)
2. **保持沉默** --- 要制伏我們的舌頭，不可咒詛，不可自誇，不可說謊 (雅 3: 1-12)
3. **保持彈性**---即是君子“能屈能伸”，要以和平，溫良柔順 (雅 3: 17) 的心態去面對惡人。要像楊柳樹一樣，暴風一到，可以隨風飄搖，暫順其意，風停了，就依然挺立，有立場的述發己意。
4. **保持微笑** --- 要清潔，滿有憐憫，多結善果，沒有偏見，沒有假冒。(雅 3: 17) 惡人自有惡人的苦處。我們要憐憫他們，但可不要被他們影响自己的心境啊！

請禱告：慈悲的上帝，求祢叫我們遠離惡人，避免與惡人發生衝突。當我們要面對惡人時，求祢幫助我們用從上而來的智慧去應付他們。阿們。