The Art Of Getting Along With Others

Intro: Rom. 12:18 “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”; Rom. 14:19 “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”; 1 Pet. 3:10-11 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11‘Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.’ These passages would create a world of peace and harmony and graciousness, if they were but applied in the lives of all men. Art as used here, as defined by Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary is, "a system of rules, or methods of performing particular actions... systematic application of knowledge or skill in effecting a desired result." Thus, we submit some rules which if sincerely applied will enable you to get along with others.

I. CULTIVATE A PLEASING DISPOSITION.
A. 1 Cor. 10:33 “Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”
   1. A pleasing disposition attracts people.
   2. A carping, fault-finding personality drives people away, many of whom might have been won over.
   3. Pro. 18:24 “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”
B. This is not to suggest that truth ever be compromised.
   1. Col. 4:6 “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”
   2. Eph. 4:15 “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”
   3. We can stand firm without being abrasive or abusive.
   4. Some in their zeal for God have driven people away.

II. LEARN TO BE TOLERANT; RATHER THAN ABRASIVE.
A. Satan has three swords he urges people to use constantly.
   1. Sarcasm
   2. Caustic Speech
   3. Ridicule
   4. While there are times when these are appropriate, as Jesus used them, we need to be careful in our use of them.
B. Learn to differ without allowing hatred to fill your heart.
   1. Eph. 4:2-3 “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
      a. Lowliness — of mind or humbleness.
      b. Meekness — first a condition of the mind and heart that will accept what happens (submission). It is because he has God’s resources at his command.
      c. Longsuffering — patience, self-restraint in the face of provocation; with regard to antagonistic persons.
      d. Forbearing — to bear with, endure.
      e. Example — Lady driving along a crowded street; her car stalls, She tries and tries to start it but it would not start. A man behind
her started honking his horn. This upset her to no end. Finally, she got out of the car, walked back to the honking man and said, “Sir, if you will go and start my car, I'll stay back here and honk your horn for you.”

2. 1 The. 5:14-15 “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. 15See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.”

3. No doubt hatred has ruined many things.
   a. churches
   b. marriages
   c. friendships
   d. many times the hatred develops over minor things.

III. LEARN TO LOVE PEOPLE.
   A. This is true because we run into people everywhere we go. There is an element of stress and tension and pressure brought only by our association with others.
   B. God’s love.
      1. It is universal.
         a. John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
         b. No one can get to the point that God does not love him.
      2. It is altruistic.
         a. Altruistic means.
            (1) Putting the interest of others before one's own interest; unselfish; not influenced by others.
            (2) One who loves altruistically loves because he is within himself desirous of giving love, must give love, and does not love on the basis of someone warranting it (doing something for it) and not for which he will receive in return.
         b. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
         c. Mat. 5:45 “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”
      3. It is sacrificial.
         a. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
         b. The Father sacrificed in giving His Son to die on the cross, and His Son giving Himself to die for our sins.
      4. It is personal.
         a. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
b. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

c. God takes a personal interest in you and me; John 10:4 “And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.”

C. **Our love is to be like God’s.**
   1. We should love universally, altruistically, sacrificially, and personally.
   2. John 15:12 “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”
   3. 1 John 4:11 “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”

IV. **LEARN TO BE COURTEOUS AND POLITE TO OTHERS.**
A. 1 Pet. 3:8 “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:”
B. Col. 3:12 “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”

C. **To the Christian:**
   1. He should always be gracious, considerate, thoughtful and diplomatic.
   2. It is always wrong for him to be impolite, rude, ill-mannered, discourteous toward others.

V. **LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR TEMPER.**
A. **The Christian is to put away anger.**
   1. Psa. 37:8 “Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.”
   2. Ecc. 7:9 “Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.”
   3. Eph. 4:31-32 “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”
   4. A qualification of elders; Tit. 1:7 “For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;”

B. **Anger causes problems; it is one of the most destructive emotions. It causes:**
   1. Hemorrhoids.
   2. Upset stomach.
   3. Tension headaches
   4. High blood pressure.
   5. Arthritis.
   6. As well as other diseases.

C. **What can one do about his anger?**
   1. Realize that he is angry.
   2. Determine:
      a. What he is angry about.
      b. If it is worth what it will cost him.
   3. Decide if what he is angry about is realistic.
4. Try to correct the problem causing the angry, thus changing the situation.

VI. **MUST WATCH ONE’S WORDS.**

A. **Words are powerful.**
   1. They can do great good.
   2. They can do great harm.

B. **Pro. 15:1** “A Soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”
   1. **Jud. 8:1-3** “And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou didst not test us as thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply. And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? Is it not the vintage of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer? God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.”
   2. **Pro. 25:15** “By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.”

C. **1 Pet. 3:10** “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:”
   1. **1 Pet. 2:1** “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,”
   2. **Psa. 34:13** “Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.”
   3. **Eph. 4:15, 25, 29, 31** “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:... Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.... Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.... Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”
   4. **Col. 3:8-9** “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”
   5. **Col. 4:6** “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

D. **Jam. 3:2-12** “For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.”
   1. Words can be used for good.
      a. bits in horses mouth.
      b. small helm on ships.
2. Words can be used for evil.
   a. a fire.
   b. full of deadly poison.
3. Thee tongue is not tameable, but it can be controlled.

   E. We shall be judged by what we say; Mat. 12:36-37 “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

VII. Must Follow The Golden Rule.

   A. Mat. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

   B. In doing this we must seek to settle all difficulties at once.

1. Mat. 18:15-17 “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, WHATSOEVER YE SHALL BIND ON EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER YE SHALL LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN.”

2. Mat. 5:23-25 “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.”

3. The longer trouble is allowed to hang on, the more difficult it is to settle.