

18-How to Keep the CrazyMakers from Making You Crazy!

We all have to deal with people who CAN drive us crazy. I say CAN drive us crazy because they don't have to drive you crazy. Pastor Rick Warren concluded his "You Make Me Crazy" Series (YMMC) of messages with advice regarding how to keep CrazyMakers from making you crazy.

Pastor Warren outlines how to deal with six different kinds of people- Demanding, Disapproving, Deafening, Destructive, Discontented and Demeaning. If you want to know more about these kinds of people then contact Saddleback Church and order the YMMC series. It's a great investment. Instead of dissecting these folks let's focus on how to deal with them.

Pastor Warren's answer is six fold:

1. Refuse to be offended
2. Don't wait for an apology to forgive them
3. Refuse to gossip about them
4. Refuse to play their game
5. Refuse to cave in
6. Always take the high ground

You may take one look at these six answers and say but you don't know _____ (fill in the blank). Well, your Creator knows every one of these CrazyMakers. **And He has brought them into your path for a reason!** He wants you to minister to the CrazyMakers in your life. You can only minister when you have God's perspective. God is not offended at the CrazyMaker so why should you be offended. If you are not offended there is not a barrier to ministry. God never expects or waits for an apology. If you need an apology then there's another barrier. God's Word on gossip is clear --- DON'T DO IT! If you feed the monster by playing the game than you clearly don't know the devil's playbook--- divide and conquer. The Lord says to unite through love. You should never cave in because that gives the devil what he is hoping for. And if you take the high ground the CrazyMaker may eventually join you. At this point you're probably saying ... well, that advice sounds good but how do I do all that. The answer is you can't, but the Holy Spirit can do it for you if you let Him.

Apply the following verses:

Proverbs 12:16 "Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult." The wise person looks past the behavior to the **pain** causing the behavior. The wise person sees the opportunity to love the person rather than react to the behavior.

Proverbs 19:11 "A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense." The wise man understands the **pain** and extends grace. He overlooks the offense because his focus is on the needs of the offender.

Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." We all appreciate the price Jesus paid for **our sin**. We can pay the small price of forgiving a **fellow sinner**.

Matthew 22:15, 18-19 "Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in His words. But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, 'You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.' They brought him a denarius,". **Follow** the example **Jesus** set by not allowing the devil to draw you into an argument with a person who needs your love and grace.

Romans 14:16 "Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil." Speak up! Do not be weak. Do not be bullied. Pastor Warren reminds us that **meekness** is **strength under control**.

Romans 12:14 "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." Real love loves the unlovable. Responding with love is being an **Ambassador for Jesus**. Follow Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good".

If you meditate on these verses then you will be prepared to minister to the hurting. You will avoid the devil's trap and be a true Ambassador for Jesus!

Personal Reflection:

Who are your CrazyMakers? How can you minister to their needs? How does God have to change your heart so you can love the unlovable?

Group Discussion:

How did your personal reflection change your heart toward your CrazyMakers? How can the group hold each other accountable to see the needs, not the behavior, of CrazyMakers?