

“Accommodating Others”

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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Most people are known for their reputation. It is always interesting when people come together at certain times. You may need to adjust to accommodate their unique situation or personality.

Some individuals may talk over you and anyone else who is engaged in the conversation, which can frustrate or discourage you. When you know they tend to be a certain way, you learn to manage your time with them. It can be exhausting when you are being steamed-rolled by a person's desire to control the conversation.

Our habits can say a lot about who we are. If you are a complainer, people will see you as very unhappy and try to understand your outlook on life. On the other hand, they may look for ways to avoid you and engage others who are more upbeat, even during challenging times. Over time, our habits have created a reputation for people desiring to be in our company or not.

As a Believer, I think you desire people to see the best in you, despite your character flaws, which you are working to improve upon. As you ask the Lord to help you represent Him, look for the good in others and be gracious without casting judgment. I'm sure you remember your mother telling you, “If you can't find anything good to say about someone, then don't say anything?”

Events in life can help you develop the necessary graces and wisdom to be an adequate reflection of Jesus Christ to others. Concerning some of your situations, you may ask yourself, “**What was that about?**” Please believe that situation will reoccur at some point in life. If you don't handle it correctly the first time, you get to repeat it and hopefully gain some wisdom. Through the experiences you have gained, you are prepared mentally by setting boundaries, showing discretion, being gracious, and being less judgmental.

Philippians 2:1-4 MSG *“If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front or sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside and help others get*

ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand."

Please celebrate with us and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The Chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club