

## EASY TO LIVE WITH

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Heb. 12:14: "Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

### I. A REAL TEST OF MATURITY IS TO MAKE OURSELVES EASY TO LIVE WITH

#### A. Happiness with Others Requires:

1. The ability to adjust.
2. Being sensitive to the feelings of others.
  - (a) Insensitivity wrecks the home.
3. Ability to absorb the jolts of life.

#### B. Factors Needed for Emotional Stability:

1. Superior happiness of parents.
2. Childhood happiness.
3. Lack of conflicts of parents.
4. Home discipline - firm - not harsh.
5. Strong attachments to parents.
6. Parents' frankness about sex.
  - (a) Stability is determined by:
    - (i) Our emotions.
    - (ii) Our minds.
    - (iii) Our wills.

#### C. Christian Families Must:

1. Increase their capacity to listen.
2. Lift their level of esteem.
3. Reach for spiritual maturity.
  - (a) Persons with self-respect are easy to live with.
  - (b) They are not on the defensive - nor emotionally unstable.
  - (c) By self-respect, they can have and the respect of and for others.

## II. FOUR LOVES NEEDED IN EVERY FAMILY.

A. ἀγάπη (storge) storgos - Family love.

Each family member holds each other very dear, special, close, and a part of each other.

B. φιλία (ida) Philos - Friendship.

Husband and wife should be best friends.

C. ἔρως (epos) - eros - Sexual love.

The relationship of husband and wife is the strongest on earth.

Heb. 13:4: "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

D. ἀγαπάω - Deep Abiding Love.

1. A love that loves the unlovely.
2. A love that loves the sinner.
3. A love that loves the unfaithful.
4. A love that extends to all men.

E. This is the kind of family where life is not cheap and values are not shallow.


F. These loves drive out anger.

1. Anger is forbidden:

(a) When it becomes uncontrolled.

(b) When it hurts yourself or somebody else.

(c) When it is prolonged.

(i)  Three sweet words solve it: "I AM SORRY."

(ii) Eph. 4:26-27: "Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."

G. What goes on around the dinner table?

1. Monosyllabic terseness.

2. Conversation centered on faults of family members.

3. Conversation centered on faults of people outside the family.

(a) Old bones within the family.

4. Keep conversation on the positive side.

H. How does love behave at home?

1. (Home is a place of constant adjustment.)

(a) Difference between infatuation and love.

Infatuation is based generally on one or two characteristics of another while love is based on acceptance of the total person.

### III. MISUNDERSTANDING MAKES LIFE DIFFICULT TO LIVE.

- A. Failure to understand small children.
- B. Failure to understand teenagers.
- C. On the other hand, teenagers fail to understand parents.
- D. Many parents treat all the children exactly alike.
- E. Children have misunderstandings among each other.
  - 1. Family misunderstandings come sometimes because of our inability to express our love.
  - 2. Love is:
    - Suffers long
    - Is kind
    - Not puffed up
    - Does not behave unseemly
    - Seeks not its own
    - Not easily provoked
    - Thinks no evil
    - Rejoices not in iniquity
    - Rejoices in the truth
    - Bears all things
    - Believeth all things
    - Hopes all things
    - Endures all things
    - Never fails

### IV. WE CAN BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON WE THINK ABOUT.

- A. Our intricate brains.
- B. Qualities of character formed in childhood.
- C. Maturing involves putting away childish things.
  - 1. A child thinks absolutely of himself.

- (a) He must be taught that he cannot always have his way.
- (b) He must learn to "get along with all the other little monsters."
- (c) He learns self-control, to control temper tantrums, pouting, etc.

ILLUS: Spanking a child for getting into the street. He may not understand about the cars/trucks, but he makes a connection with getting into the street and an unpleasant experience.

(Conditioned - Response)

D. To develop into persons "Easy to Live With:"

- 1. We must have a mature love of Self.
- 2. We must have a mature love of Others.
- 3. We must have a mature love of God.

V. THE "IDEAL" LIFE IS NOT THE NORMAL STANDARD.

A. Homes do not operate ideally.

- 1. We all have fears, joys, problems.
- 2. One man said: "The place of woman is in the home and that is where she should go straight to when she gets off from work."

B. Empathy is needed.

- 1. Means understanding. It is the capacity to stand in someone else's shoes. It is the ability to structure a situation through someone else's eyes, from this point of view, through his emotions.

- (a) Only God has complete empathy. Only neurotics and small children have none.

(b) It is difficult to forgive people for what they are.

D. The man easy to live with is:

1. The Salt of the earth.

(His presence makes all things palatable. Consistent, devoted, dependable.)

2. A Light on the hill.

(Radiating presence of above man.)

3. The Leaven to permeate.

## VI. WHY SOME PEOPLE ARE NOT EASY TO LIVE WITH:

A. Rom. 12:18: "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

B. We are locked into certain situations:

1. Family relationships.

2. Church relations.

3. A job is not just a job.

C. Self-Centeredness brings tensions to relationships.

1. Psalm 36:2: "For he flatters himself in his own eyes, when he finds out his iniquity and when he hates."

2. 2 Tim. 3:2: "For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy."

3. Gal. 6:3: "For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

D. Deceitfulness makes relationships difficult.

1. Prov. 20:17: "Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel."

Prov. 26:18-19: "Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, "I was only joking!"

- (a) 

When faith and confidence have been tarnished by irresponsibility, the original feeling of trust is hard to repair, if it ever is.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

 \*

E. Rebellion Upsets the peace of a home.

1. Titus 1:16: "They profess that they know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."

F. Hostility.

1. Prov. 16:27: "An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire."
2. Prov. 16:32: "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."
3. Prov. 26:20: "Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases."
4. Eph. 4:31: "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice."
5. 2 Cor. 12:20: "For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

G. To solve wrong attitudes:

1. Accept yourself for what you are.

- (a) This involves honesty.
- 2. Talk with a non-judgmental trusted friend to gain insights to your problems.
- 3. Trace back these problems - attitudes to their childhood sources.
- 4. Come to God for cleansing and forgiveness.
- (a) 1 John 1:7-9: But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -THANK YOU LORD.

VI. TO BE EASY TO LIVE WITH ONE MUST POSSESS:

A. Self-control.

- 1. 1 Cor. 9:27: "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."
    - (a) 




      - (i) Actions.
      - (ii) Impulses.
      - (iii) Desires.
      - (iv) Emotions.
  - 2. Man becomes a wretch without discipline. \*
- "Master of My Fate  
Captain of My Soul"

B. Tact.

1. Col. 4:5-6: "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outsiders, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."
  - (a) Skill in saying and doing what is best and suitable in given circumstances.

C. Courtesy.

1. 1 Pet. 3:8-9: "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not rendering evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary bless, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."
  - (a) (Courtesy is politeness combined with kindness.)
  - (b) Manners give the measure of a man.

D. Tenacity toward what is good.

1. Luke 9:62: "And Jesus said to him, 'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'"
2. James 1:2-4: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."
3. 2 Tim. 4:7: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
  - (a) Stick-to-it-ness.
    - (i) With a vice-grip, take hold of life's problems and solve them.

E. Honesty.

1. Phil. 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things."

(a) Quality of being free of deceit.

2. 2 Cor. 8:21: - providing for honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

(a) Be honorable.

F. A desire to serve others.

1. Gal. 6:2: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

2. Mark 9:35: "And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.'"

3. Rom. 15:1-2: "We then who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good to edification."

(a) Serve One's -  
Family  
Church  
Others

G. A Man of Sympathy.

1. 1 Pet. 3:8-9: "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not rendering evil for evil and reviling for reviling, but, on the contrary, bless, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

- (a) Sympathy is defined as the quality of sharing other's troubles, pity, tenderness, kindness.

H. Unselfishness.

1. Phil. 2:3-4: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem another better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."
2. Acts 20:35: "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

THE SECRET OF CHARACTER TRAINING IS TO  
STRENGTHEN THE WEAK SPOTS.

THE CENTER REFERENCE POINT  
IS  
HEAVEN