

How You Can Be the Bigger Person

God puts us in relationships with all sorts of people. We don't think alike, and we have different personalities, interests and ideas. God intended to make us that way. And although everyone is not like us, He still wants us to get along with each other.

I love what Paul says in Philippians 2:2 (AMPC): "Fill up *and* complete my joy by living in harmony *and* being of the same mind *and* one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind *and* intention."

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To put this verse in perspective, Paul was writing to people who seemed to be in continual disagreement. If you've raised two or more children, I'm sure you know just what he meant. Sometimes you'd give anything for a little peace and quiet!

Strangely, the people we usually disagree with the most are the ones we also care the most about—our spouses, family members, close friends and co-workers. If we're asking God to bring healing into any of those relationships or improve them, we need to partner with Him to make it happen.

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We need to learn how to control our emotions and stay away from strife. That's an old-fashioned word for bickering, arguing or a heated disagreement, and it carries an angry undercurrent.

Have you ever been around someone who pretends everything's OK, but you can tell that underneath, they're seething with anger? Have you ever *been* that person?

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