

**TAKING GOD TO WORK**  
**The Keys To Lasting Success**  
Overcoming Difficult People  
Pastor Steve Reynolds

**INTRODUCTION**

**A.** Work for most of us, it's a necessity. For some, it's a passion. For others, it's the pits. But for all of us it can be so much better when we take God to work.

*"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men "*  
Colossians 3:23

**B.** Imagine the impact in our lives if through this campaign we all learned how to take God to work and apply the keys to lasting success. Join us as Pastor Steve Reynolds reveals the keys to lasting success.

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Oct 8	Temptations In A Modern, Diverse Culture
Oct 15	What God Thinks About You And Your Work
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**C. TEXT:** Romans 12:14-21 (Pew Bible/Pg. 1114/New Test.)

- The biggest problems in any workplace are almost always **people** problems. Most employee turnover is due to **relationship** issues.
- God allows difficult people in your life to produce spiritual **growth**. They are like "spiritual sandpaper" to smooth out your rough edges and make you more like **Jesus**.

**B.** Do give **away** your angry emotions (v. 19b).

*"21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

*22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";*

*23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;"*  
I Peter 2:21-23

**IV. ACTS OF GOODNESS** (vs. 20-21)

*"43 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'*

*44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

*45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

*46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"* Matthew 5:43-46

**A.** Do not be overcome by **evil** (v. 21a).

Evil compounds evil.

*"9 "As for the head of those who surround me, Let the evil of their lips cover them;*

*10 Let burning coals fall upon them; Let them be cast into the fire, Into deep pits, that they rise not up again."*

Psalm 140:9-10

**B.** Do overcome evil with **good** (v. 20a, 21b).

Evil can only be overcome with good.

*"21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;*

*22 For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you."*  
Proverbs 25:21-22

**ARE YOU TAKING GOD TO WORK?**

## OVERCOMING DIFFICULT PEOPLE

### Types of Difficult People

- The **Megaphone**: Talks constantly.
- The **Volcano**: Blows up regularly.
- The **Bulldozer**: Runs over people.
- The **Victim**: Complains alot.
- The **Snake In The Grass**: Lies often.
- The **Fault Finder**: Criticizes everything.
- The **Space Cadet**: Forgets details.
- The **Gossip**: Spreads negativity.

What does God expect you to do with difficult people? He expects you to do your best to get along with everyone (Romans 12:18). However, He also knows that it is not always possible. Even God can't please everybody! In this passage the Bible gives you four techniques for overcoming difficult people.

### I. **WORDS OF KINDNESS** (vs. 14-15)

*"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."*

Colossians 4:6

**Grace** means undeserved favor.

#### A. **Bless** them, do not **curse** them (v. 14).

*"A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger."* Proverbs 15:1

*"Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases."* Proverbs 26:20

#### B. Do **congratulate** and **console** them (v. 15).

*"Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;"* Proverbs 24:17

## II. **THOUGHTS OF HUMILITY** (v. 16)

*"I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us."* III John 9

### A. Do not have a **prideful** mindset.

*"By pride comes nothing but strife,..."* Proverbs 13:10a

*"Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him."* Proverbs 26:12

### B. Do have a **humble** mindset.

*"5 ...Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."* I Peter 5:5b

*"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."* Philippians 2:3

## III. **FEELINGS OF FORGIVENESS** (vs. 17-19)

*"bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."* Colossians 3:13

### A. Do not give **in to** your angry emotions (vs. 17-19a).

The stages of a declining conflict:

1. **Remedy** Stage - "Let's fix the problem."
2. **Responsibility** Stage - "Who caused the problem?"
3. **Rights** Stage - "I'm right so you must be wrong."
4. **Removal** Stage - "Get rid of those people."
5. **Revenge** Stage - "Make someone pay."

*"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."* Leviticus 19:18