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Unappreciated People Break

(How to give to others the very thing you want for yourself)

(SERIES: **31 Word That Will Save Your Life: 05 of 08**)

by Dr. David Foster

"Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently. For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat . . . ?

. . . So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse.

Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: **that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is.** I'm convinced—Jesus convinced me!—that everything as it is in itself is holy. We, of course, by the way we treat it or talk about it, can contaminate it.

If you confuse others by making a big issue over what they eat or don't eat, you're no longer a companion with them in love, are you? These, remember, are persons for whom Christ died. Would you risk sending them to hell over an item in their diet? **Don't you dare let a piece of God-blessed food become an occasion of soul-poisoning!**

God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you.

So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault." (Romans 14 MSG)

5 Ways To Bring People Down

You bring people down when you **nag them.**

You bring people down when you **compare them.**

You bring people down when you **criticize them.**

You bring people down when you **verbally abuse them.**

You bring people down when you **write them off.**

10 Ways To Build People Up

Accept their uniqueness.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psa 139:13)

Praise their strengths.

Pray for their weakness.

"But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:32 NIV)

Respect them by listening.

" . . . Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry," (James 1:19)

Expect the best.

"Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because HE IS HELPFUL TO ME IN MY MINISTRY." (2 Tim 4:11)

Champion their cause.

"How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along! It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard . . ." (Psalm 133 MSG)

Insist on integrity.

"Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your 'Yes' be yes, and your 'No,' no, or you will be condemned." (James 5:1-13 NIV)

Ask for advice.

Talk face to face.

"When Peter came to Antioch, I **OPPOSED HIM TO HIS FACE**, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray." (Gal 2:11-13 NIV)

Encourage always.

" . . . encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today . . ." (Heb 3:13)