

It's All About Family!



Topic #11: Love Lets Others Win

If you were asked to name three people with whom you have had a disagreement lately, I'm sure you could easily. Who won the argument? I'll bet that most of the time, no one won, and you and the other person were left feeling frustrated and irritated. Consider what would have happened if you let the other person win.

Sometimes, being stubborn is important. Some things are worth standing up for and protecting – our priorities and morals – but most disagreements are about little unimportant things. The arguing parties just keep digging in their heels, and they become farther and farther apart. To get beyond these stalemates, consider the opposite of stubbornness – willingness. It is a spirit of cooperation that should be included in every discussion, especially when disagreement exists. Be like a palm tree on the beach that endures the greatest winds because it knows how to bend.

An argument will end if you humbly say, "I'm willing to go your way on this one," and follow through. It may cost you a few moments of pride, but in the end, you will feel better. You may say, "But then I'll look foolish. I'll lose the fight and lose control." Continuing to argue without listening already makes you look foolish, you will never win the fight, and you're losing control by being engaged in a stubborn argument anyway.

Giving in doesn't mean that the other person is always right; it just requires you to give willing consideration to their point of view before jumping to defending yours. It will allow you to open up a respectful dialogue on the issue rather than putting you both in defensive mode.

Challenge #11: Love Lets Others Win

Demonstrate love by willingly choosing to give in to an area of disagreement between you and another person. Tell them you are putting their preference first. Don't hold a grudge, though. Do it willingly, and then approach your next disagreement with an open mind.