

# The Blessings and Benefits of Problems (Part 6)

## Introduction:

1. We have learned that problems are a part of life. Because of the curse of sin on this earth, problems are woven into the fabric of everyday life.
2. There are many internal benefits and blessings of problems. Let's examine some of those benefits.

**First, problems can lead us to a state of humility.**

**Second, problems can teach us patience.**

**Third, problems can cause us to deepen our relationship with the Lord.**

**Fourth, problems can open doors for ministry to others.**

**Fifth, problems can strengthen relationships or allow new friendships to begin.**

- Let's look at three simple, yet incredible truths that have the power to radically change our relationships in a positive way.
  - A. By maintaining \_\_\_\_\_ communication**
    - As the disciples were about to go through the most turbulent time of their lives, Jesus kept the lines of communication open. After the resurrection, it was the same way. Read John 13-18.  
**Example:** Luke 24:44-45
    - The strongest, closest relationships will have conflicts. When this happens, we have two choices:
      - \_\_\_\_\_ it through.
      - Turn and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Many satisfying relationships have been terminated because one or both parties decided to quit \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Ephesians 4:29 – This verse provides the three laws of effective communication.
      - \_\_\_\_\_ – *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth...”*

- \_\_\_\_\_ – “...but that which is good to the use of edifying...”
- \_\_\_\_\_ – “...that it may minister grace to the hearers.”

- Do you want to strengthen your relationships when you go through problems? Take a lesson from Jesus and maintain open communication.

**B. By staying \_\_\_\_\_ to the relationship**

- It is amazing the level of commitment that Jesus had towards His disciples.
- These were the men who fell asleep on Jesus when He needed them, forsook Him and fled at His arrest, cursed and \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and doubted His resurrection from the dead.
- Yet, look at Luke 24:49. He basically said, “You’re still my guys. I’m with you. I’m committed to you. We’re in this thing together!”
- Because of Christ’s commitment to them, they went on to do incredible exploits for God, leading thousands of people to Christ.
- There is nothing more rewarding than a relationship that has been through \_\_\_\_\_ and yet has come out \_\_\_\_\_.

**C. By \_\_\_\_\_ past mistakes and offenses.**

- Staying committed to a relationship is very difficult when there is a \_\_\_\_\_ being kept of past offenses.
- What were Jesus’ first words to His friends after He rose again?  
John 20:19, 21-22
- Very clearly they knew they were forgiven. What a difference it made in their relationship.
- Many relationships will never grow any \_\_\_\_\_ until the bitterness is dealt with.
- The bitterness buster – Colossians 3:13
- As people draw closer to death, many times they begin to realize more and more that relationships are what really \_\_\_\_\_ the most in life.