

CRAZY MAKERS

– Living with insensitive, tactless,
difficult...self absorbed...deceiving... and paralyzing people
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CHAPTER TITLES

Meet the Enemy
 The Battle Begins
 Life in an Emotional Straightjacket
 Worship and War at Church
 Employer or Egomaniac
 When the Puppy Turns into a Bear
 Bedlam in the Backyard
 And What About the Kids?
 Maintaining Stability

WHAT DOES A CRAZYSMAKER LOOK LIKE?

SELF-IMAGE

1. Most decisions, actions, or discussion tend to promote his or her own self-image.
2. People Crazy-makers promote are portrayed as an extension of himself or herself.
3. They do not seem to sense that they should be more tactful.
4. They are willing to distort reality to maintain his or her own fantasies about who he or she is.
5. They treat disagreement or disobedience as disloyalty.
6. They respond with vengefulness or vindictiveness when he or she thinks you are being disloyal.
7. They see themselves as special or unique.
8. They are willing to be destructive in order to be seen in a light of his or her own choosing.
9. They are deeply bothered if his or her image is diminished by other people.

ENTITLEMENT

10. They expect special treatment
11. They thrive on the adoration and admiration of others and will seek it out regardless of the cost.
12. They tend to roll people without noticing that he or she may be stepping on another person's toes.
13. They often feel that the world owes him or her glory or respect.
14. They seek out people who don't know him or her personally to maintain this adoration and feeling of self-importance.
15. They seem to be insensitive to how he or she affects others.

16. They do not appear to care about others unless it ultimately serves their reputation or need for control.

EXPLOITATION

17. This person is manipulative and controlling
18. They often abuse his or her position of influence and power while maintaining that this is for the other person's good.
19. They alternate between the extremes of promoting himself or herself and devaluing himself or herself.
20. They often exaggerate your positive characteristics or ideals especially when they want you to do something for them.
21. They can make radical changes in a short amount of time from caring about a person to being completely indifferent to this person.
22. They will often resort to put-downs or highly critical judgments.
23. They become somewhat paranoid or may see opposition as part of a conspiracy.
24. They seem to think he or she has a right to ignore others.
25. They rarely admit personal failure and is adept to blame shifting.
26. They do not care how his or her behavior affects others.
27. They use other people's weaknesses to maintain a power position.
28. They have no hesitation or shame in conning others.
29. They aren't bothered when he or she makes people uncomfortable.
30. They develop relationships that tend to be superficial and shallow.
31. They make you feel off-balance or "crazy" at times.

DEPERSONALIZATION

32. This person lacks genuine empathy
33. They do not seem to have significant feelings for others.
34. They will not compromise nor negotiate fairly
35. They sometimes treat other people like things or objects.
36. They use denial, arrogance, haughtiness, charm, and exaggeration or persuasion to maintain a "superior" position.
37. They are good at convincing you of his or her goodness (superiority)- and of your badness (inferiority).
38. They expect automatic compliance with his or her expectations.
39. They seem to retreat from genuine human need and ignores the pain of others.
40. They see solutions and success as more important than personal relationships.
41. They don't seem to feel the struggle when others are involved in personal pain.

20 to 35 = a difficult person.

35+ = a Narcissist.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Crazy Makers"
 - Difficult people – are insensitive, tactless, careless, and inattentive people but still have a degree of empathy for others.
 - Narcissistic, self-absorbed people – have no concern for others except as a disguise to get what they want. They are manipulative, self-absorbed, damaging, deceiving, and prejudiced.
2. Forgiveness is not... forgetting that a bad experience ever happened, nor changing the rules on what is true, right, and appropriate.
3. Forgiveness is...recognizing that we not only can receive mistreatment and abuse but grace and mercy as well. Forgiveness is a process that usually takes a significant amount of time. Forgiveness is the reason for a new self-esteem. Forgiveness is letting go of the negative feelings of the past.
4. Stages of Forgiveness –
 - Recognition of who is responsible for what
 - Recognition of any issues hidden in denial
 - Recover the value of suffering
 - Pursue recovery

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATIONS

- **Prov 9:7** "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. pg. 55
- **Matt 18:15-17** "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Pg. 57
- **Eph 4:26-27** "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. Pg. 212
- **Matt 5:43-48** "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Pg.226

- **Luke 19:45-46** Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling. 46 "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be a house of prayer'; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" Pg.209
- **2 Cor 1:3-5** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. Pg. 245
- **James 5:13-16** Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Pg. 195
- **Psalms 119** pg. 109; **139** pg. 148
- **Lamentations 3:21-23** pg. 112
- **Luke 19** pg. 122

INSIGHTS

- "Difficult people have an uncanny ability to make us feel like we are the source of the problems" pg. 7
- Remember that crazymakers exist because of their weakness, not their strength. It helps to remember the person's pain is what keeps him or her from responding properly.
- In addition to a low self-esteem (often revealed by a HUGE ego), crazymakers struggle with pent up anger. They often explode for reasons that have nothing to do with the confrontation at hand.
- While churches are places of love and worship, don't minimize the confrontations when they occur. It's important you to identify the difficult people when they surface. pg. 58
- Crazymakers can change, but they must be confronted. In order to maintain an atmosphere of peace and tranquility for yourself and others, it may be your turn to wave the flag that stops their train.
- Remember who is your source for the strength and tenacity needed to deal with difficult people. God is the foundation of our capacities. Let Him help you find strength for the hard times.
- Difficult people tend to be oblivious to your feelings. Expect them to be more concerned with themselves. pg. 100
- You must set the boundaries and enforce them if you want genuine change.
- Even if the crazymaker is your spouse, don't anticipate that he or she will change overnight. You've got to maintain the boundaries necessary for your best interest.

- To keep yourself balanced you've got to ask yourself questions like:
pg.121
 1. Is this person stable right now?
 2. Is he or she making sense, or is this actually a distortion?
 3. Why is he or she saying and acting this way?
- Six steps to getting out of the "CRAZY" crisis: pg. 232
 1. Identify the history of the problem
 2. Set boundaries that bring change
 3. Encourage counseling
 4. Find friends to support you in the battle
 5. Confront your anger
 6. Allow forgiveness to release the pain.

CONCLUSIONS

Responding to Crazy-makers "Plan A" pg. 187

1. Don't embarrass the crazy-maker.
2. Image is everything to a crazy-maker, so don't diminish the façade he or she wears.
3. Find an indirect approach to confrontation not head on. ("I need the counseling to deal with our struggles would you go with me.")
4. Remember the goal is to help the person accept the need for professional help.

Responding to Crazy-makers "Plan B" pg. 86

5. "Duck" – when attacked by a crazy-maker on a rage. Remind yourself that THIS person has a problem. The issue being described is NOT the issue needing to be addressed. IOW – don't respond with the same level of intensity and with similar methodologies.
6. "Bob" – Rather than taking the defensive on the issue they seem upset over make note that they seem unusually upset over such an issue. What else could be wrong, big picture, related to self-image?
7. "Weave" – Crazy-makers rage best by making unreasonable expectations. Acknowledge that you can't do everything and ask them to decide what you should exclude in order to do the thing they want most.
8. Be prepared to move to "plan C".

Responding to Crazy-makers "Plan C"

1. Expect problems and don't be shocked when they occur.
2. Watch and keep close track on the dynamics occurring during the confrontations. What common issue seems to set a person off? What helps to diffuse their anger? What does help?
3. Scripture offers important insight into what to expect. Pr. 9:7-8

4. When one on one confrontation does not yield satisfactory results Matthew 18:15-17 offers a solid progressive series of strategies.

Identifying the Problem (the real issues)

1. What are the issues? Begin writing out verbatims of the explosive events. Make special note of the undercutting comments or unusual remarks. (Refer to "What does a Crazy maker look like?")
2. What makes you feel inadequate? You will begin to notice patterns in the verbatims. Crazy makers will use the control techniques that work best on you. Do not respond in kind to him her. Stay focused on the issue and choose not to respond to the personal attacks. Remember it's not you that has the problem don't allow them to make you feel inadequate.
3. What lit the fuse? What is making the crazy maker feel inadequate?
4. Remember that the symptom of crisis is that crazy makers are concerned about power and control. They want it, and anything you do to give it to them only accelerates the war. Not giving them the control by avoiding losing control of yourself is your only hope.

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