

HOW HELPERS (SUPPORTERS) CAN MISUSE THEIR GIFT

1. NEGLECTING HOME RESPONSIBILITIES TO HELP OTHERS

Helpers tend to disregard their own comforts in order to help others. Other reasons may also cause this: an inability to say "no" to others, and the need for sincere gratefulness from those whom they help which they may not get at home. This attitude may extend to their own family.

2. ACCEPTING TOO MANY JOBS AT ONE TIME

It is difficult for helpers to say "no" to needs. This causes them to get involved in too many projects at the same time.

3. WEARING THEMSELVES OUT PHYSICALLY

In order to assist others, helpers will often disregard their own physical limitations. This, in itself, will cause physical exhaustion. However, helpers tend to add a further dimension to the problem when they take on more responsibility than they can handle: inner tension which may result in ailments, especially with their stomach.

4. BEING TOO PERSISTENT IN GIVING UNREQUESTED HELP TO OTHERS

Helpers are able to detect needs before others are even aware of them. They get their joy and fulfillment from meeting these needs. Because of this, they may persist in trying to meet a particular need which they see.

5. GOING AROUND PROPER AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO GET JOBS DONE

The proper channels of people and committees may look like unnecessary "red tape" to helpers who want to get jobs done as soon as possible. They will even use personal funds in order to avoid delays in meeting needs. (Usually they can't afford the money they spend.)

6. EXCLUDING OTHERS FROM HELPING ON A JOB

Unlike organizers, helpers find it extremely difficult to delegate jobs to others. They tend to want to do the jobs themselves.

7. INTERFERING WITH GOD'S DISCIPLINE BY PREMATURE HELP

If helpers see a need in the life of another person, their first impulse is to meet it; however, it may be that the need is designed by God to bring that person to repentance. The needs of the prodigal son in the pig story would illustrate this point. Meeting his physical needs might have hindered his repentance and return to his father. (Luke 15:11-32)

8. BECOMING HURT BY THE UNGRATEFULNESS OF THOSE WHO WERE HELPED

Helpers do not usually desire public recognition. However, they deeply desire sincere appreciation from the ones whom they serve. This may cause them to work for the approval of people more than the approval of God.