

Dortell Willams H45771
(Non-Fiction)
WORDS UNCAGED

IT'S ALL ABOUT LISTENING

Have you ever tried to talk to someone and they continuously cut you off; constantly interrupting? Nothing can be more annoying. To make matters worse, they take over the conversation; they make it all about them. I used to get extremely frustrated when this would happen, and these days it seems more and more people do it.

Then I took an interesting class, a victim sensitivity class. I learned about tolerance, patience, and empathy; giving people the benefit of the doubt. Applying this information to the interrupters helps. Perhaps these types of people, the interrupters, don't get to share much with others. Or perhaps they are just selfish, which is their issue. To avoid making it my issue, I simply yield the floor and let them talk. If it gets overwhelming, I find a polite way to escape.

Retreating is a lot better than getting into a heated argument about it, and, perhaps, losing an otherwise good friend. I have noticed that most arguments I've had with others – where we ended up not talking for some time – where about nothing. I can remember many instances where we were mad at one another, but couldn't remember the exact reason why.

If the person is someone I really care about, then I might raise the issue at some point, but never at the moment when they have annoyed or angered me. That never ends well. If I can think of a way to make a jokey-joke about it, that's even better. Because most of the time people just innocently get lost in the moment; they don't mean to be rude; they don't realize they are being a jerk ;).

In my communication theory class, they call this “monopolizing.” People take over the conversation and monopolize it. Everyone does it at some point. I've done it. So I'm sharing this to remind myself, and the world, don't be rude. Be a friend, listen, and if that doesn't work, then listen harder, please. It's better to converse, which means to go back and forth, but if all else fails: just listen.

April 2017