

## **Slow peel**

Have you ever tried to peel a label off of a manila envelope, an old plastic notebook, or off of one of those America Online CD packages? I used to get pretty frustrated trying to do this, because they would always start deteriorating and leave a mess that I couldn't remove. I finally found the secret, though, and that is patience. If you pry up one corner and go very, very slowly, you can many times get the job done without any problem. But the instant your peel speed gets too fast, the adhesive will separate the paper, leaving part in your hand and part on the package. If you continue at this point, the residue of adhesive and thin paper will be very difficult (almost impossible) to remove cleanly.

If the label does start to tear, you may be able to recover by approaching from a different angle, using the same technique from another corner. Usually, you can peel up the problem area as you go through it. There's nothing like the success of a complete label removal.

There is a parallel to the relationships that we have with people, especially our kids. Here again, we cannot force things to happen too quickly; we must take our time when we deal with people. If we don't, something tears and we end up with a really serious problem. We cannot force change in people, just as we cannot rip a label off of a package. Think about this the next time you have a problem with someone.

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Remember James Dobson's example of holding a wet piece of soap; not too hard, not too soft or it will slip from our grasp