

Attitudes

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I. Introduction.

A. Attitudes are important because they reflect the inward heart. (1 John 4:1; Mark 1:23;

Deuteronomy 5:29; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Mark 7:21-22; Luke 16:15)

B. Attitudes are sensed by everyone.

C. Attitudes are emotional responses and habitual patterns of thinking to any given stimuli.

II. The importance of attitudes.

A. Man is a tripartite being (he is a body, soul and spirit). (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

1. The spirit of man is the part of man that is capable of being infused with the personality of God. (Proverbs 20:27, Zechariah 12:1; Genesis 2:17)

2. Bodily response is not necessarily a reflection of the attitude. (2 Chronicles 25:2)

B. The key to attitudes is the mind because the mind tells the emotions how to respond. (Romans 8:7; Philippians 2:5; Ephesians 4:23-24; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Proverbs 23:7; 4:23)

C. We control the mind by pouring the right things into it such as the Word of God, prayer and Christian fellowship.

D. Our attitudes are important because God looks on the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 23:26; Numbers 14:24; Daniel 6:3-4; Psalm 53:2)

III. Bad and good attitudes.

A. Disqualifying attitudes.

1. Fear. (Revelation 21:8; 2 Timothy 1:7)

2. Anger. (Ephesians 4:26; Proverbs 14:30)

3. Bitterness. (Hebrews 12:15; Luke 9:51-56)

4. Worldliness. (1 John 2:15-16; Matthew 19; Luke 18; 15; Hebrews 12:16-17)

B. There is a point of no return where we become disqualified for God's reward. (Hebrews 11:26)

C. The basic root behind all bad attitudes is selfishness.

D. Needed attitudes.

1. Trust. (Jeremiah 39:18; Proverbs 17:20; Titus 1:15)

a. Believe God is control.

b. Believe he knows all.

c. Believe he has all power. (Matthew 28:18)

d. Believe he loves you.

e. God is sovereign over history. (Job 12:23; Acts 17:26; Ephesians 1:9-10)

1) God will not destroy America because...

a) It is a source of great missionary support. (1 Timothy 2:4;
2 Peter 3:9)

b) It is tied to the Jews.

c) There are righteous men in it still. (Genesis 10)

2) God is sovereign in your own life. (Job 23:13-14)

2. Contentment. (Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11)

3. A positive outlook. (Philippians 4:8)

4. The attitude that we do not belong to ourselves. (Philippians 3:7-8, 10, 13,14)

5. The attitude that people are more important than things. (1 Timothy 1:5)

IV. Teaching and changing attitudes.

A. Changing attitudes.

1. Recognize your need.

a. Exposure to the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12 ; Psalm 36:9; 90:8;)

b. Prayer. (Psalm 19:12; 139:23-24)

c. People. (Proverbs 10:8; 9:8)

2. Be willing to change. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

3. Confess your sin. (Psalm 32:6)

4. Ask God to work on your behalf. (Psalm 51:10; Philippians 4:13)

5. Ask others to help you. (Matthew 26:41)

6. Reprogram your thinking.

B. Attitudes are caught not taught. (2 Kings 2; Numbers 27:19-20; Acts 4:13; Philippians 4:21).

C. How not to be miserable.

V. Conclusion.

Application questions

1. Are you sensitive to your attitudes?

2. What will you do about your bad attitudes today?

3. How can we change our attitudes?
