

Two Different Types of Attitudes

How important is it that Christians have the right attitude? Attitude greatly affects one's relationship with God. A proper attitude is demonstrated through proper obedience and service to God. Examine the following attitudes and see which ones you possess:

It will not work. If it is scriptural, it does work – if we will use ourselves in God's vineyard. There is no stronger positive plan than God's plan. Those who try to belittle God's ways of doing things belittle God (Colossians 3:17).

We tried that before. If it is scriptural, keep trying. Just because something has been tried once or twice does not mean the plan fails, it means we have not worked the plan diligently.

It cannot be done. This is brother or sister Pessimist! They can give five to ten excuses that tend to discourage and hold back the Lord's work. With God on our side it can and will be done (Romans 8:31; Philippians 4:13).

Let us do it later. How this must please old Satan. If we put spiritual matters off long enough, the devil knows we will have eternity to spend with him! (Proverbs 27:1; Matthew 25:46).

You do it. This is the attitude of brother/sister Scapegoat. He tries to "pass the buck." He does his/her best to push his/her responsibility onto someone else (Genesis 2 – Adam tried this!).

I will do what I can. This attitude expressed and demonstrated by Christians who are willing to use their talents. They gladly do what they can when they can (I Corinthians 15:58).

I have faith we can do it. That is great! This rubs off on others and causes others to see that their faith can grow also. After all, diligent faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:6).

I want to help. How God must love to hear this positive attitude expressed. Wanting to serve God is the key foundation to rendering proper service.

It will be all right. This attitude means those who believe this pray and labor to see that things do work out to God's glory. How we need more brethren that think this way (I Thessalonians 1:2-3).

We will be successful. Brethren who feel this way will not allow the devil, trials, or heartaches to stop them. They will (with God's help) press onward and upward (Philippians 3:13-14).

Which attitudes do you express by your mouth and influence? May God help us to remove negative thinking from our lives. May we be more involved – more dedicated – because after all we do not want to possess any attitude that would hinder the work and worship of the Lord's church.

Author unknown

BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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Rejecting Christ

Jesus plainly connected rejecting His words with rejecting Him in John 12:48, He also included Moses' words in His statement concerning him in John 5:46-47. The plain truth is that rejection of Jesus' teachings are also a rejection of Him.

Too often men seek to be "believers" without knowing much about He Whom they claim to believe in. They even go so far as to place the Bible in the same category as other literature of our day. They deny its inspiration, or deny that it is inspired in its every word. Some have even suggested that it contains no more inspiration than that which Shakespeare was inspired to write in "Romeo and Juliet." The sad truth is that some of these men are not only "theologians," some of them are preachers in the Lord's church.

The inerrant, verbally inspired, and unchanging word of God testifies of itself. In II Samuel 23:3, David states, "*The Spirit of the Lord spoke by men, and His word was on my tongue.*" Peter also said, "*knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*" (II Peter 1:20-21). Peter states the same principle that David did, that the Holy Spirit was the one who spoke; it was the men who moved. This is not human inspiration, it is Godly inspiration -- and it defies human understanding or definition.

Peter told us that we were "*born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever*" (I Peter 1:23). It is Jesus' words that brought about our rebirth and His words that will judge us. Let us not be in danger of rejecting Christ by rejecting His words.

*Skip Francis
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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NOT A MEMBER OF ANY DENOMINATION

(I have been doing some research for a manuscript for a lectureship book and came across this article -- K.J.C.).

Some time ago I stated that "I am not a member of any *denomination* called 'Christians or Disciples,'" and that "I have no more interest in, or connection with, any *party* in religion calling themselves 'Christians or Disciples,' but not including *all* Christians, or disciples, than any other denomination in Christendom." And now the *Baptist Gleaner* says: "You say you are not a Methodist, nor Episcopalian, nor Presbyterian, nor Baptist, nor Campbellite, nor do you belong to any party in religion calling themselves 'Christians or Disciples.' Where in the name of sense, do you belong? Who are you anyhow?" Well, I am Brother Srygley, a common sort of Christian, or disciple of Christ, such as we read about in the New Testament, and I belong to the church of God, which includes "all Christians, or disciples of Christ," but which is not a denomination in any sense. How would it do, for instance, to say I belong where everybody else belongs who is simply a Christian such as we read about in the New Testament, and such as the *Baptist Gleaner* assures us any man can be without being a Baptist, or a Methodist, or a Presbyterian, or an Episcopalian, or a Campbellite, or anything else of that kind. If I rightly understand the matter, I "belong" where Paul, Peter, John, James, and all the rest of the Christians we read about in the New Testament belong -- namely, to the church of God, I know it goes hard with the *Gleaner* to see a Christian keep out of sectarian pens and refuse to herd with denominational flocks, but it admits that the thing can be done, and my heart is fully set on doing it.

F. D. Srygley From editorials in the *Gospel Advocate* 1889 to 1900
Recorded in the book, *New Testament Christianity* compiled and edited by F. B. Srygley.

With these sentiments, I agree wholeheartedly. I am NOT a member of ANY denomination. I am simply a Christian and a member of that same blood-bought church that Paul, Peter, James, John and other 1st century Christians belonged to, to which they were added by the Lord when they obeyed the gospel of Christ. Sadly, some within the church today -- as was the case at the end of the 19th century -- are not satisfied with doing things in Bible ways and being called by Bible names, they want to be part of a "Church of Christ" denomination thus seeking to make the church of the Lord a denomination among denominations. I refuse to go down that path which would seek to make the church that which it is patently NOT -- a denomination. Also, there are others who, because they are enamored of certain brethren are -- in a different way -- denominationalizing the church because of their desire to maintain fellowship with a known, and proven, false teacher. Thus setting up a standard for fellowship that is different from that revealed in holy Writ. By setting such a standard, different to that of the divinely inspired New Testament, these brethren have begun going down that slippery slope that leads to the establishing of standards in *other* areas that differ from the New Testament pattern -- and as a result denominationalizing themselves.

May we take note of, and refrain from anything that would cause us to denominationalize the precious body of Christ because we desire to change God's standard for our own. We need to be simply Christians -- with no denominational tag and no standard of authority that is not the divinely revealed standard of the Word of God.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett's mother, Kathy Treadway's mother and Bronwen Gibson's mother (Lavonne McClish) she has continued health related issues and is still in severe pain but is scheduled for an open MRI on Wednesday to see if she has a pinched nerve. The Peebles were not able to be out Sunday. Jack has not yet had surgery as more tests are being run but the surgery is still likely.

Ethan and Noah Arnold were sick Sunday and Ethan was still sick Wednesday evening.

Myrle Grimsley and Rachel Fitzpatrick were both out of town Sunday.

We will have a fellowship meal on Sunday May 27, 2007 following the evening services. It will be a soup, chili, sandwiches, etc. meal. Plan to stay and eat together after our evening worship.

Saturday, June 23, 2007 will be an afternoon "get together" beginning around 2:00 pm with a low country boil to be served about 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Plan to be a part of this time together.

"O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him" (Psalms 34:9). There was a news report that the pope was going to make a deceased person a saint. I don't know when this person lived, in the 1800's I think. What a false doctrine! According to God's Word, when one becomes a child of God, one is a saint. On one occasion Paul wrote, "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Philippians 1:1). Paul was not writing to dead people; he was writing to alive-in-Christ people. Saints are to fear the Lord. "Fear," as a verb, means: "To fear, to respect, to reverence, to be afraid, to be awesome, to be feared, to make afraid, to frighten. The most common translations are to be afraid, to fear, to fear God. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" is a famous use of the noun (Prov 1:7)" (from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament Copyright © 2003 by AMG Publishers. All rights reserved.) Saints "fear" the Lord; we respect and revere the Lord. We do so by obeying His will from hearts full of love for God and His works.

If saints will fear the Lord, they have "*no want*." The word "*want*" is defined: "A masculine noun referring a lack, a need, poverty. It indicates what is needed because of a lack (Deut 15:8); or what is required to meet a need (Judg 19:20). Its sense becomes focused on the want or lack." (From The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament Copyright © 2003 by AMG Publishers. All rights reserved.) With what appears to be a negative connotation to this word, saints have no lack or poverty. Saints that fear the Lord have all their needs fulfilled. The apostle Paul had this knowledge and fullness. He wrote, "*10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*" (Philippians 4:10-13).

Beloved, in a world filled with so many desires, fear the Lord and have no want!

Beloved, listen to all of God's word, God will do thee good!

Thought For Today, 05/12/2007

Jimmie Z. Gribble

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