

The Local Congregation: Attitudes That Are Needed

Introduction

Colossians 1:9-10 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

- 1. It is easier to do what is right when we think and know what is right.**
 - A. Attitude is very important; I like to say that attitude is everything.**

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

- 1) Everything that we do we do with an attitude. The question is "what kind of attitude?"**
- 2. Proper attitudes are needed if we are to truly enjoy our proper relationship toward God and to the local congregation of God's people.**

Romans 12:3 Serve God with Spiritual Gifts For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- 3. Let's examine some attitudes of the ideal church member.**

Attitudes Toward God

1. **Love: The first and greatest of all commandments, representing the true attitude that we should possess is that of love.**

Matthew 22:34-38

2. **Faith; Trust**

Hebrews 11:1, 6

3. **Thankfulness**

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Attitudes Toward Ourselves

1. **Humility**

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

- A. **Humility includes the willingness to serve, to do even the “menial” tasks of life**

John 13:12-16

- B. **Lawrence D. Bell once stated: “show me a man who cannot do little things and I’ll show you a man who cannot be trusted to do the big things.”**

- 1) **Parable of the Talents:**

Matthew 25:21

2. Teachability

Proverbs 15:31-33 The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

A. Teachability includes:

- 1) An eagerness to learn and grow (2 Peter 3:18)**
- 2) The ability to learn from correction, to profit from advice and criticism.**

B. The old as well as the young need a teachable attitude. Elton Trueblood wrote: "Education is too good to limit to the young."

3. Honesty; the willingness to admit mistakes and to correct them

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

1. Love

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**

2. Cooperation; a willingness to work together

1 Corinthians 12:21-22 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

- A. **We need to be able not only to do the work, but to work together.**
- B. **Andrew Carnegie wrote: "It marks a big step in a man's development when he comes to realize that other men can be called on to help him do a better job than he can do alone."**

3. **Appreciation for others and their work**

1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

A. True appreciation for others will eliminate destructive criticism, gossip, factiousness, etc.

B. The apostle Paul wrote:

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Philippians 2:1-4 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, **having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind**. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, **but also for the interests of others**.

4. **Peaceableness**

Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Ephesians 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

5. Warmth, friendliness and openness**Acts 2:44-47****6. Gentleness and meekness**

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

7. Forgiveness; forbearance; patience; longsuffering

Ephesians 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Conclusion

- 1. Ideal attitudes make for ideal working conditions among members of a local congregation.**
- 2. As we each contemplate our individual duties to the church, let us strive to emulate the mind of Christ**

Philippians 2:1-5

