

Attitudes needed in Congregational Work – Part 1

Scripture: **Colossians 1:9-12**

“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; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light”

Our attitudes determine how we will perform in any situation. (If you think you are beat, you are!)

2. People can easily tell by our attitudes if we are supportive of a project. (There is nothing so easy but that it becomes difficult when you do it with reluctance.)

3. God speaks to us about attitudes.

1. **Proverbs 4:23**- “Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.”
2. **Romans 12:3**- “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

4. There are four areas in which our attitudes will directly affect the work of the church.

In the next four weeks we will be looking at areas we should be concerned about “our attitudes”?

Week 1. Our attitude toward God

Week 2. Our attitude toward ourselves as individuals

Week 3. Our attitude toward our brethren

Week 4. Our attitude toward the work we do together as a church

in a least these four areas, we must be sure to maintain the proper attitudes

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ATTITUDES TOWARD GOD.

This obviously is the most important.

- If our attitude toward God is bad, immoral, or corrupt, then why would we work for Him? Or even worship him. Why would we come to church if our hearts towards God is not right?
- We must have the proper attitude toward and about God.

We must love Him.

1. **Matthew 22:34-38** “But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.”

2. Love is the base of all Christianity. If Love is present in our lives then it is a proof of the non-existence of God in our lives
3. Notice that this is followed up by love for one another. (Vs. 39, 40)
“³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
4. See that this is the most important part of following Christ.
5. How do we display an attitude of love toward God? (John 14:15-“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” How many times we have said if you love me you will do what I said

We must have faith & Trust in Him.

1. Hebrews 11:1, 6

¹“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”, ⁶“But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

a) First, we see the definition of faith. We must also realize that faith never tested is not faith at all.

b) Faith in God means that I know that God’s grace has saved me and I only can lose it.

c) True faith is knowing I am saved. 1 John 5:13-“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

2. Then we see that it is impossible to please God without faith.

a. Faith means that we don't always see the road before us.

b. We often tell God, “Show me and I'll believe,” when throughout the Bible we see, “Believe and I will show you.” (REF. Paul)

We must be obedient to Him

1. Hebrews 5:8 “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered”

As Christians, we have been called to be obedient to God in big things and little things, day in and day out, longer than we can do on our own, in our own strength. Living in godly obedience is sometimes hard, but God has anointed and equipped us for the job. We can do whatever we need to do with His help – and not only that, we can learn to do it with smiles on our faces!

2. Obedience puts us on God's timetable

It takes self-control to be obedient to God. When God says “no,” our flesh can get depressed, sulk, feel sorry for ourselves, or react angry and upset. You have to discipline ourselves to keep doing what God has commanded even though our flesh wants to scream.

There may be times we want to tear our hair out because it's just so hard. But if we will humble ourselves enough to say to Him, “I am nothing without You,” and spend daily, intimate time with Him, God will give us supernatural strength to keep going. Stay close to Him and He will change our heart and our attitude and give us peace in our circumstances.

God's timetable may not make immediate sense to us or the people around us, but remember that His plans are to prosper us, not to harm us (see Jeremiah 29:11). Believe that everything He has asked us to do is going to work out for our good (see Romans 8:28). Trust that whatever God is asking us to do, He has our best interest at heart. Discipline ourselves to submit to His authority, and He will bless us in ways we can't even begin to imagine!

We must be thankful.

1. Ephesians 5:20. "Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"
2. We need to recognize God as the giver of all good things. (James 1:17) Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.)
3. There is nothing we can do without God. We can do all things in Christ Jesus
(John 15:5) "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
Philippians 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"

How then do we glorify him? Jesus gives the answer in John 15:7: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." We *pray!* We ask God to do for us through Christ what we can't do for ourselves — bear fruit.