

“Attitudes”

Introduction:

- A. The right attitude is very important for success in any line of endeavor. Whether it be a simple task or a task that requires some forethought and calculations. You must enter the task with the proper attitude.
- B. When we come to worship Christ in spirit and in truth and our attitude is not what it should be - we are worshipping in vain. When we arise on the Lord's day morning, that is the time for us to get into the proper attitude for worship that day.
- C. There are five types of attitudes we want to discuss today. In discussing these attitudes look within yourselves and see if the attitude you find needs attention. You only get out of a worship what you put into it. The right type of attitude determines what we put into the worship service.

I. *How Is Your Attitude Towards Christ?* (Mat 22:42)

Matthew 22:42 - "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They *said to Him, "The son of David."

- A. Jesus asked this question of the Pharisees.

- 1. It put an end to their questions about Him?
- 2. Their answer was answered with another two questions? - vs. 43-45

Matthew 22:43-45 - He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET"'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

- 3. This ended the questions once and for all.

- B. Jesus Christ was either the Son of God, or the son of a (mortal) man only!

- 1. He could not be both!
- 2. If He was God's Son, then He was born of a virgin
- 3. If He was not born of a virgin, then He was not the Son of God
 - a. He was not the Savior of mankind
 - b. He was a liar and an imposter

- C. If He was God's Son, He was anointed and the Christ - Acts 2:33

Acts 2:33 - "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

- 1. And if anointed, then He is King - 1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14

1 Timothy 6:15 - which He will bring about at the proper time--He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

Revelation 17:14 - "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

- D. If He is the "Son of God" - He is deity, not just divine

- 1. The modernist, especially the Unitarians, believe in the divinity of Christ
- 2. But they deny His deity. (There are those in the church that do this as well!)

- E. What about you? "What think ye of Christ?"

II. *How Is Your Attitude Towards The Authority Of Christ?*

A. Jesus declared He has all authority - Matt 28:18

Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

B. If we believe His word, then we must respect his authority - Jn 12:48; 13:20

John 12:48 - "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

John 13:20 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

C. Jesus spoke highly of the faith of the Centurion who said in Mat 8:8

Matthew 8:8 - But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

1. "Speak the word only."
2. The Centurion respected the word of Jesus
 - a. He believed that with the spoken word of Christ his servant would be healed
 - b. "This is the attitude we should have; this is true faith in the authority of Jesus Christ!"
- D. Death and destruction have come upon men because they refused to hear and respect the word of God.
 1. Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden
 2. Cain in his banishment to the land of Nod
 3. Nadab and Abihu in the unacceptable fire
 4. Israel in their disobedience
 5. The Lord's church in times past and I fear the present day and those to come

III. *How Is Your Attitude Towards False Doctrine?*

A. There are some who believe/practice that it is all right to believe a false doctrine

1. They teach that we are all striving for the same place just taking different ways to get there
2. If it is alright for one, it is alright for 2, for 10, for 200, for the world!

B. There are still others with the idea

1. "Preach the truth; leave the other fellow and his false doctrine alone"
2. "It is not kind to expose error in teaching; it is not politically correct!"
3. "Don't bother them." "You will cause them to think wrongly of us!" "HELLO!"

C. If Christ had followed such a course, He would have continued to be obscure

1. And of no consequence in the world!

D. Had pioneer preachers followed this course, the church would be unknown today!

1. 2 Tim 2:15; 2 Tim 4:2

2 Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 4:2 - preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2. We have only one doctrine to preach. That is the doctrine of Jesus Christ.
 - a. We are to rebuke all other doctrines.
 - b. All other doctrines are false doctrines.

E. Jesus and the apostles exposed false doctrines.

1. Most Matthew 23 is filled with warnings of false doctrines by Jesus himself.
2. The book of 1 John was written by the "Disciple of Love."

- a. Rarely is there a page that he does not call someone a liar!
- b. We are in good company by upholding the truth of the gospels! Exposing error and false teachers.

F. Jesus is portrayed as the N. T. as "the lamb of God." - Jn 1:29

John 1:29 - The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- 1. In respect to His person, Jesus was a "lamb of God" - Acts 8:32

Acts 8:32 - Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH."

G. In (Rev 5:5) Jesus is portrayed as a "lion of the tribe of Judah"

Revelation 5:5 - and one of the elders *said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

- 1. In respect of His doctrine, He truly was a "lion of the tribe of Judah"

IV. How Is Your Attitude Towards Those Who Preach The Truth And Expose Error?

A. Herodias (adulteress wife of Herod) had John the Baptizer killed

- 1. What was his crime? He exposed her error and preaching the truth - Mr 6:18

Mark 6:18 - For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

B. Some preachers preach because they love the praise of man!

- 1. Are the same who refuse to obey the truth and will take many to hell with them - Jn 12:48

John 12:48 - "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."

C. Demas loved the present world and forsook Paul and the cause of Christ - 2 Tim 4:10

2 Timothy 4:10 - for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

D. Paul faced stoning at Lystra; mobs at Ephesus and Jerusalem

- 1. Yet, he preached the word of God

E. There are some in the church today who try to apologize

- 1. For the type of preaching Paul did; they want to be politically correct!
- 2. Their messages are reconciliation of beliefs
- 3. Fellowship with unbelievers of any faith!
 - a. Their message is: "We all serve the same God just in different ways!"
- 4. It is not acceptable to society to expose scriptural error in preaching
 - a. They whimper that "We might further separate ourselves from them"
 - b. Unfortunately, this is the attitude of some in our churches today!!!!

F. Paul withstood Peter face to face because of Peter's guilt

- 1. In refusing to eat with Gentiles - Gal 2:9-14

Galatians 2:9-14 - and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They only asked us to remember the poor--the very thing I also was eager to do. But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even

Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

G. What is your attitude towards those who preach the truth and expose error?

1. Support or Offensive?
2. This is a very important question
3. Think about it before you answer

V. *What Is Your Attitude Towards Members Of The Church* (1 Cor 15:58; Phil 4:1)

1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Philippians 4:1 - Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

A. Even with their sinfulness and short comings, Paul considered them "beloved"

1. What about you?
2. How is your attitude about brethren here?

B. To John (the beloved), Christians were "my little children" - 1 Jn 2:1; 2:28; 3:7; 5:21

1 John 2:1 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

1 John 2:28 - Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1 John 3:7 - Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

1 John 5:21 - Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

C. Everyone who is a member of the Lord's church are yours and my brethren

D. Because they too are member of His church

1. I am to love them despite our different backgrounds
 - a. Despite our different races
 - b. Despite our different languages
 - c. Despite our different congregations
 - d. Despite whatever they do to me and forgive them!
 - e. Despite my own desires
 - f. Despite what we think about them
2. We are all members of the family of God and need to support one another
 - a. If we cannot get along here in this life
 - b. How are we going to make it in eternity?

Conclusion:

A. What about your attitude towards your brethren?

B. What about your attitude towards this church?

C. Are attitudes important? "YES" Your attitude will determine your character here on this earth. Your attitude will determine where you will spend eternity.

D. Attitudes are important because they are a mirror to our attitude about Christ.