

Doctrinal Studies

Attitudes

It is extremely important that we as Christians have the right attitude. The thing that motivates, empowers, strengthens, and causes us to rejoice in daily living, is proper thinking. Proper thinking can come only when persistent consistence overrules insistent resistance! The sinful nature of every individual presents an insistent resistance to Christian growth and development, so there must be a continual persistence in the daily intake of Spiritual Food. As the attitude is the sum total of a man's thinking, that thinking can be vertical rather than horizontal.

1. What do we mean by attitude? It is the disposition of Man; the sum total of Man's thinking. Attitude determines the manifested personality. Prov. 23:6-7: "Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: For as he thinketh in his heart so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."
2. Conflict of attitude is one of the greatest conflicts of all. Isa. 55:6-9: "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."
3. There is a biblical command to have a right attitude. Phil. 2:5: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" 1Cor. 2:16: "For who hath known the mind of the Lord; that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." 2Cor 10:4-6: "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (human attributes), but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."
4. The report of the local church is based upon proper attitudes. For Christians to function in an orderly and precise manner there must be an orientation to the Will and Design of God. Vertical (divine) thinking results in proper attitudes. Rom. 12:2: "And be ye not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." IITim 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."
5. A right attitude resulting from Christian growth gives us great confidence. 2Cor. 5:1: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
6. There are many areas of life where attitude is the key:
 - a. STABILITY – James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."
 - b. PROSPERITY – Phil. 4:7 "And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
 - c. GIVING – 2Cor. 9:7: "Every man according as he purposeth in his hearts, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."
 - d. WORLDLINESS – Col. 3:2: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
 - e. EVIL – Matt. 9:4 "And Jesus, knowing their thoughts said, 'Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?'"
 - f. ARROGANCE – Gal. 6:3 "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."
 - g. INNER BEAUTY – 1Tim. 2:9-10: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."