

Attitudes

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I. Introduction. (1 John 4:1; Mark 1:23)

II. The importance of attitudes.

A. Attitudes are emotional responses to certain habitual patterns of thinking.

B. Man is a tripartite being (he is a body, soul and spirit). (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

1. The spirit of man is the part of man that is capable of being infused with the personality of God. (Proverbs 20:27, Zechariah 12:1; Genesis 2:17)

2. Salvation regenerates this part of a man.

3. The soul is the mind, emotions and will.

4. The spirit and soul are interrelated in attitudes. The mind, emotions and will are interrelated in attitudes also.

5. The spirit of man is divided by the carnal portion and the spiritual portion.

C. The key to attitudes is the mind because the mind tells the emotions how to respond.

(Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Proverbs 23:7; 4:23)

D. We control the mind by pouring the right things into it such as the Word of God, prayer and Christian fellowship.

E. Our attitudes are important because God looks on the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 23:26; Daniel 6:3)

F. God cannot use someone with the wrong attitude.

III. Bad and good attitudes.

A. Bad attitudes.

1. Bitterness. (Hebrews 12:14-15; Luke 9)

2. Worldliness. (1 John 2:15-16; Luke 18; Hebrews 12:16-17)

3. Selfishness.

B. Needed attitudes.

1. God's sovereignty.
2. Not belonging to ourselves. (Philippians 3:7-8, 10, 13-14)
3. Knowing that people are more important than things.

IV. Teaching and changing attitudes.

A. Changing attitudes.

1. Recognize your need.
 - a. Exposure to the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
 - b. Prayer. (Psalm 36:9; 90:8; 19:12; 139:23-24)
 - c. People. (Proverbs 10:8; 9:8)
2. Be willing to change. (2 Corinthians 7:1)
3. Confess your sin. (Psalm 32:6)
4. Ask God to work on your behalf. (Psalm 51:10; Philippians 4:13)
5. Ask others to help you. (Matthew 26:41)
6. Preprogram your thinking.

B. Teaching attitudes.

1. Attitudes are caught not taught.
2. We spread attitudes by example. (2 Kings 2; Acts 4:13).

V. Conclusion.

Application questions

1. Are you sensitive to your attitudes?

2. What will you do about your bad attitudes today?

3. How can we change our attitudes?
