

Christian In Disposition

Intro: Disposition is the predominating bent or constitutional habit of one's mind. If sin came in degrees, surely the sins of disposition would be some of the worst. Let us notice what the Christians disposition should be.

I. THE CHRISTIAN DISPOSITION IS HUMBLE.

A. Pride

1. God hates a haughty look.
 - a. Pro. 6:16-17 ¹⁶ These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,”
 - b. Pro. 8:13 ¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”
 - c. Pro. 11:2 ² When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”
 - d. Pro. 16:18 ¹⁸ Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
 - e. Pro. 29:23 ²³ A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”
2. Notice the pride of the Pharisees; Mat. 23:5-12 ⁵ But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, ⁶ And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷ And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. ⁸ But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. ⁹ And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. ¹⁰ Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. ¹¹ But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

B. Humility

1. Phi. 2:5-8 ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
2. Jam. 4:6 ⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”; 1 Pet. 5:6 ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”
3. Rom. 12:3 ³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”
 - a. No one is indispensable.
 - b. Story of an elder who got to thinking the church would die when he died. He wanted to enjoy being missed, so he failed to attend worship one week. No one even mentioned it to him. He became so angry he quit the fellowship of the church.

C. Some are so egotistical that they have to suggest something before it is any good.

II. A PREREQUISITE OF CHRISTIAN PERSONALITY IS KINDNESS.

A. We are to be kind.

1. Eph. 4:32 ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”
2. Col. 3:12 ¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”

B. Kindness is sympathy in action; serviceable; good.

1. The good Samaritan was more than sympathetic; he was kind. Luke 10:30-37 ³⁰ And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, ³⁴ And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. ³⁶ Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? ³⁷ And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”
2. It is non-retaliatory.
 - a. Mat. 5:39, 43-48 ³⁹ But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.... ⁴³ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; ⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? ⁴⁷ And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? ⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”
 - b. Rom. 12:19-21 ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
 - c. The best way to get even with one who has wronged you is to pull him up to where you are.

III. THE CHRISTIAN IS FORGIVING IN SPIRIT.

A. We must be forgiving.

1. Mat. 6:12, 14-15 ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. ¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵ But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
2. Mark 11:25 ²⁵ And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”
3. The unmerciful servant; Mat. 18:23-35

B. Forgiveness is a blotting out of the trespass and a forgetting of that offense. It is no longer held against the person.

1. Heb. 8:12 ¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”
2. Heb. 10:17 ¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”

C. Whereas we must have a forgiving spirit, actual forgiveness is on the basis of repentance.

1. Luke 17:3-4 ³ Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. ⁴ And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.”

2. Col. 3:12-13 ¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."
 - a. We follow the pattern set by Christ.
 - b. Christ forgives on the basis of repentance.
 - (1) Have Christ attitude on the cross; Luke 23:34 ³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."
 - (2) Yet they were not forgiven until they repented; Acts 2:38 ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
 - c. That does not mean we can harbor grudges, ill feelings, or do evil toward those who have not repented.
 - d. Our attitude should be one of love, kindness, gentleness, forbearance, and praying for him to repent.

IV. THE CHRISTIAN IS PEACEFUL IN DISPOSITION.

A. We are to be peaceful.

1. Mat. 5:9 ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."
2. Rom. 14:19 ¹⁹ Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

B. God hates those who cause contentions.

1. Pro. 6:16, 19 ¹⁶ These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹ A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."
2. A man said, "I'm going home and if my wife does not have a good meal cooked, I'm going to raise the roof; and if she does, I'm not going to eat a bite."
3. Then some people are against everything. A man went in late to a business meeting of the church. As he sat down he said, "I don't know what you are talking about, but I'm against it."

C. Peace and Purity.

1. As desirable as peace is, sometimes it is wrong to have peace.
 - a. Jer. 6:14 ¹⁴ They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace."
 - b. When a Doctor gives a shot to a child there is no peace, the child fights to the end. But avoiding the storm could cause a funeral later.
2. We must first have purity.
 - a. Jam. 3:17 ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."
 - b. If a man steal his foster mother and the church trying to keep peace, quietly hushes the matter, that peace is abominable; 1 Cor. 5.
 - c. Christians must, "mark them that cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine" Rom. 16:17 ¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."; even if it causes trouble.

V. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A GRATEFUL DISPOSITION.

A. We are to give thanks.

1. Col. 3:15 ¹⁵ “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”; 1 The. 5:18 ¹⁸ “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
2. Especially toward God.
 - a. Psa. 50:14 ¹⁴ “Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.”
 - b. Psa. 116:12 ¹² “What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?”
 - c. 2 Cor. 9:11 ¹¹ “Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”
 - d. Eph. 5:20 ²⁰ “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”

B. Ingratitude is one of the most despicable traits.

1. Only one of the ten lepers who were healed gave thanks; Luke 17:12-19 ¹² “And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: ¹³ And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. ¹⁴ And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? ¹⁸ There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. ¹⁹ And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.”
2. Some people find it hard to say, “Thank you.”
3. A good memory will help us be grateful. We need to count our blessings.
 - a. physically
 - b. spiritually

VI. THE CHRISTIAN IS EASILY ENTREATED, NOT STUBBORN OR SELF-WILLED.

A. Jam. 3:17 ¹⁷ “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

1. One cannot be self-willed; 2 Pet. 2:10 ¹⁰ “But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.”
2. It is a qualification for elders; Tit. 1:7 ⁷ “For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;”
3. This is one who is dominated by self-interest, and inconsiderate of others, arrogantly asserts his own will.
4. A man once said that a horse was seventeen feet high. The other man replied, “You mean seventeen hands high, don’t you?” He replied, “Well what did I say?” The answer, “You said seventeen feet high.” He continued, “Well if I said seventeen feet high, I will stick with it, that horse was seventeen feet high.”

B. But we must remain firm in our stand for Christ.

1. Eph. 6:10, 14 ¹⁰ “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able

to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

2. 1 Cor. 16:13 ¹³ Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”
3. 1 Tim. 6:12 ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”
4. Jude 3 ³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

VII. THE CHRISTIANS DISPOSITION IS TOLERANT NO MOTE-HUNTER.

- A. **Mat. 7:1-3** ¹ Judge not, that ye be not judged. ² For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. ³ And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?”
- B. **Some people develop eyestrain looking for the faults of others.**
- C. **The worst fault is the inability to see our own mistakes.**
 1. A man said, “I think I could see my faults, if I had any.”
 2. 1 John 1:8, 10 ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

VIII. FAIRNESS IS A REQUIRED TRAIT OF THE CHRISTIAN DISPOSITION.

- A. **The golden rule demands it.**
 1. Mat. 7:12 ¹² Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”
 2. Luke 6:31 ³¹ And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”
- B. **The law of love demands it.**
 1. Rom. 13:8, 10 ⁸ Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. ⁹ For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ¹⁰ Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.”
 2. Gal. 5:14 ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
- C. **Some people have one rule for you and another for themselves.**
- D. **Unselfishness is essential to fairness, Phi. 2:3-4** ³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

IX. THE CHRISTIAN MUST BE COURAGEOUS.

- A. **It takes more courage to be a Christian than it does anything else.**
- B. **The Christian must stand for something.**
 1. Eph. 6:10, 14 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”
 2. 1 Cor. 16:13 ¹³ Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”

C. We cannot stand for something without standing against something.

1. Psa. 97:10 ^{“10} Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.”
2. Psa. 119:104 ^{“104} Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.”

Conclusion: Let us make sure we have the disposition our Lord desires us to possess.