

# Attitudes That Need To Be Developed In The Local Church

Intro: God authorized the local congregation as is seen in the seven local congregations in Revelation and letters to other local congregations. The local church necessitates that Christians who make up those congregations properly work together. This necessitates the development of proper attitudes. To develop the proper attitudes, we must allow the Scriptures to control our thinking. Let us notice some areas in the local congregations where proper attitudes need to be developed.

## I. ATTITUDES TOWARD GOD

### A. Proper love for God.

1. Mat. 22:37 <sup>37</sup> Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”
2. Do we truly love God with our entire being?

### B. Develop strong faith and trust in God.

1. Heb. 11:1 <sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
2. We cannot please God without faith.
  - a. Heb. 11:6 <sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
  - b. Do we have the type of faith that will be pleasing to Him; Rom. 10:17 <sup>17</sup> So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

### C. Develop an attitude of thankfulness toward God.

1. Eph. 5:20 <sup>20</sup> Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”
2. Col. 3:17 <sup>17</sup> And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
3. God’s righteous indignation comes upon those who are not thankful; Rom. 1:18-21 <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; <sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. <sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: <sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

### D. Develop an attitude of sacrifice.

1. Rom. 12:1-2 <sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And be 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.”
2. Sacrifice demands giving God the best of:
  - a. Our time
  - b. Our abilities
  - c. Our financial resources.

## II. ATTITUDES TOWARD OURSELVES AS INDIVIDUALS

### A. We must develop proper humility.

1. Rom. 12:3, 16 “<sup>3</sup>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.... <sup>16</sup>Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.”
2. Humility will allow one to engage in menial tasks:
  - a. In one way, no task is menial when done for the Lord; Mat. 10:42 “<sup>42</sup>And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”
  - b. Notice the example of Christ; John 13:4-9, 14-17 “<sup>4</sup>He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. <sup>5</sup>After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. <sup>6</sup>Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. <sup>8</sup>Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head. <sup>10</sup>Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. <sup>11</sup>For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. <sup>12</sup>So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. <sup>17</sup>If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”
  - c. Those unwilling to do small things can never be trusted to accomplish great things.

### B. We must develop a teachable attitude.

1. We need to see the value of continued Bible study; 2 Tim. 2:15 “<sup>15</sup>Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2. We are to grow in knowledge.
  - a. 1 Pet. 2:2 “<sup>2</sup>As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
  - b. 2 Pet. 3:18 “<sup>18</sup>But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
  - c. Col. 1:10 “<sup>10</sup>That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”
  - d. Growth in our knowledge of God’s Word:
    - (1) It is not limited to those things we have heard in the past.
    - (2) It is not simply rehashing what someone else said.
    - (3) Simply because we have not considered a concept or thought from the Bible previously does not mean it cannot be true.

### C. Develop a proper attitude regarding our mistakes.

1. We all make mistakes at times.
2. We need to be honest with regarding them; even unintentional sins.
3. Jam. 5:16 “<sup>16</sup>Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
4. Always have a willingness to correct them.
  - a. Simon the sorcerer; Acts 8:24 “<sup>24</sup>Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.”
  - b. 1 John 1:9 “<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

### III. ATTITUDES TOWARD FELLOW CHRISTIANS

#### A. Develop an attitude of love.

1. John 13:34-35 <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
2. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 <sup>22</sup> Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: <sup>23</sup> Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

#### B. Develop an attitude of cooperation.

1. 1 Cor. 12:22-24 <sup>22</sup> Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: <sup>23</sup> And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness. <sup>24</sup> For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked:”
2. 2 Cor. 6:1 <sup>1</sup> We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”

#### C. Develop an attitude of appreciation for the worth of others.

1. 1 Cor. 12:22-23 <sup>22</sup> Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: <sup>23</sup> And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness.”
2. Phi. 1:3-4 <sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,”

#### D. Develop an attitude of submission.

1. Eph. 5:21 <sup>21</sup> Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”
2. Phi. 2:3 <sup>3</sup> *Let* nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”
3. 1 Pet. 5:5 <sup>5</sup> Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

#### E. Develop an attitude of peacefulness.

1. Mat. 5:9 <sup>9</sup> Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”
2. Rom. 12:18 <sup>18</sup> If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

#### F. Develop an attitude of hospitality.

1. Rom. 12:13 <sup>13</sup> Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.”
2. Heb. 13:2 <sup>2</sup> Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

#### G. Develop an attitude of gentleness and meekness.

1. Mat. 5:5 <sup>5</sup> Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”
2. 2 Tim. 2:24-26 <sup>24</sup> And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; <sup>26</sup> And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

#### H. Develop an attitude of forgiveness, forbearance, and longsuffering.

1. Eph. 4:2, 32 <sup>2</sup> With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;... <sup>32</sup> And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”
2. Col. 3:12-13 <sup>12</sup> Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.”

## IV. ATTITUDES TOWARD OUR WORK

**A. Without the proper attitude to what we hope to accomplish, our work will go undone.**

**B. We must have gratitude for the privilege of work.**

1. 1 Cor. 15:9-10 <sup>9</sup>“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”
2. Eph. 3:8 <sup>8</sup>“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;”
3. It necessitates:
  - a. Col. 3:23 <sup>23</sup>“And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”
  - b. Enthusiasm and eagerness; 2 Cor. 9:2 <sup>2</sup>“For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.”
  - c. Learning to do the very best we can and continuing to improve upon our labors.

**C. We are to be faithful in our work.**

1. Notice some passages.
  - a. 1 Tim. 4:14 <sup>14</sup>“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”
  - b. 2 Tim. 1:6 <sup>6</sup>“Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.”
  - c. Phi. 2:14 <sup>14</sup>“Do all things without murmurings and disputings:”
  - d. Heb. 6:12 <sup>12</sup>“That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”
2. Some principles from the preceding verses.
  - a. We need to be self-starters.
  - b. We need to approach our work with a positive attitude.
  - c. We need to continue in our work till it is completed.

## V. ATTITUDES TOWARD THE LOST

**A. Individually and collectively we must develop a concern for lost souls.**

**B. Attitudes toward unfaithful brethren**

1. We are discussing:
  - a. Those who have obeyed the Gospel and become a Christian.
  - b. Afterwards they have fallen into sin.
    - (1) Simon the sorcerer.
      - (a) Obeyed the Gospel; Acts 8:13 <sup>13</sup>“Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”
      - (b) Then fell away; Acts 8:22-23 <sup>22</sup>“Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. <sup>23</sup>For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity.”
    - (2) 1 John 1:6 <sup>6</sup>“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”

2. Brotherhood in Christ does not automatically bring endorsement or fellowship.
  - a. One must continue to walk in the light to insure abiding fellowship with God; 1 John 1:6 “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”
  - b. When one ceases walking in the light, he no longer has God; 2 John 9 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”
  - c. Christians do not accomplish the Lord’s work by having a broader concept of spiritual fellowship than what the New Testament authorizes.
3. We need to be about the business of restoring them.
  - a. Gal. 6:1 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”
  - b. Jam. 5:19-20 “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”
  - c. Even those whom have had fellowship withdrawn; 2 The. 3:13-15 “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.”

### C. Attitudes toward those who are non-Christians

1. Both as individuals and collectively, we must develop a concern for lost souls.
  - a. Jude 21-23 “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”
  - b. Consider our Lord’s concern for lost souls.
    - (1) After a scathing rebuke of the scribes and Pharisees; Mat. 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!”
    - (2) He was willing to leave heaven to save men.
      - (a) Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
      - (b) Phi. 2:6-8 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
    - (3) Through His sufferings on the cross we are enabled to obediently respond to the Gospel; Heb. 2:9-11 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,”
2. When we emulate the love and compassion of Christ, we will recognize the importance of preaching the Gospel.
  - a. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
  - b. Acts 8:4 “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”

**D. Develop the attitude of defending the truth.**

1. Only the truth will save.
  - a. John 8:32 <sup>32</sup>“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
  - b. John 17:17 <sup>17</sup>“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
  - c. Thus, error condemns.
2. We must be diligent to defend that Truth.
  - a. Phi. 1:17 <sup>17</sup>“But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.”
  - b. Jude 3 <sup>3</sup>“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.”
3. Our preaching, teaching, debating, personal work endeavors, along with all we do must be geared to winning the lost to Christ.

Conclusion: May we develop the proper attitudes to bring honor and glory to Christ by building up the local church.