

Attitudes Of A Christian

Intro: Webster defines attitude as, “A mental position with regard to a fact or state.” People make judgments about others by the attitude they possess. Thus there is the need for us to have the proper attitudes as Christians. In order to have the proper attitudes we must be trained and properly taught. We must go to the Bible to find out what attitudes God wants the Christian to have.

I. THE CHRISTIAN’S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORLD.

A. We are not to be like the world.

1. Rom. 12:1-2 ¹ “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. ² 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.”
 - a. We are not to be conformed (to fashion or shape one thing like another).
 - b. Thayer defines this as to condition one’s mind and character to another’s pattern.
2. 1 Pet. 1:14 ¹⁴ “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:”
3. While the Christian must be in the world, we cannot allow the world to be in us.
 - a. John 17:15 ¹⁵ “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.”
 - b. cf. a boat in the water.
4. The world’s pattern. Summed up for us; 1 John 2:16 ¹⁶ “For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
 - a. Lust of the flesh.
 - (1) Greed.
 - (2) Deny any standard so there will be no restraint. Much like our commercial: “go for the gusto” and “you only go around once in life.”
 - (3) This is the thinking of the Corinthians.
 - (a) 1 Cor. 6:13 ¹³ “Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.”
 - (b) They said God made the body for fornication, therefore they could satisfy their bodies need just as we satisfy our need to eat.
 - (c) Paul said, **No!**
 - b. Lust of the eyes.
 - (1) The look that causes sin.
 - (2) Mat. 5:28 ²⁸ “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”
 - (3) Jas. 1:14-15 ¹⁴ “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
 - c. Pride of life.
 - (1) look out for self.
 - (2) try to get power.
 - (3) Oba. 3-4 ³ “The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation *is* high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the

ground? ⁴ Though thou exalt *thyself* as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.”

- (4) Phil. 2:3-5 ⁴³ *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”

B. We are not to love the world;

1. 1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
2. Mat. 6:24 ²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
3. Where is your affection?

C. We are not to be the friend of the world; Jam. 4:4 ⁴⁴ Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

II. THE CHRISTIAN’S ATTITUDE TOWARD SINNERS

A. We are to pray for the sinner’s salvation.

1. Not that they would be saved without obeying the gospel, but that they would hear and obey.
2. Rom. 10:1 ¹ Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”
3. Luke 10:2 ² Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”
4. We must do more than just pray, we must work.
 - a. Paul did this with the Jews.
 - b. Jam. 2:15-17 ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

B. We are to seek the sinner’s salvation.

1. Matt. 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
2. Mark 16:15-16 ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
3. Our salvation is dependent upon our obedience to all of God’s commands (including this one).
4. 2 Cor. 5:10-11 ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

C. We are to rebuke the sinner.

1. Luke 17:3 ³ Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.”
2. Tit. 1:9-13 ⁹ Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. ¹⁰ For there are many unruly and vain talkers

and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: ¹¹ Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. ¹² One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. ¹³ This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;" Tit. 3:10-11 ¹⁰ A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; ¹¹ Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

3. Jam. 5:19-20 ¹⁹ Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; ²⁰ 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."
4. It may have to be public.
 - a. 1 Cor. 5:4-5 ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."
 - b. 1 Tim. 5:19-20 ¹⁹ Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

III. THE CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRIST.

A. We are to confess Christ.

1. Mat. 10:32-33 ³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."
2. 2 Cor. 4:3-5 ³ But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. ⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

B. We are to obey Christ.

1. Heb. 5:8-9 ⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"
2. John 14:15 ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments."
 - a. 1 John 4:19 ¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us."
 - b. Because of His love for us we should love Him enough to obey His commands.

C. We are to follow Christ.

1. 1 Pet. 2:21 ²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"
2. We follow Christ by:
 - a. reading, studying and applying God's word to our hearts.
 - (1) Mat. 4:1-11 ¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. ⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only

shalt thou serve. ¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

- (2) Psa. 119:11 ¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
- b. serving others (not having to be served.)
 - (1) Mat. 20:28 ²⁸ Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
 - (2) John 13:13-17 ¹³ Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am. ¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”

IV. THE CHRISTIAN’S ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHER CHRISTIANS.

A. Fellowship (association with) them.

1. The basis of this is that Christians share in a common possession, with all its responsibilities, obligations, privileges and promises.
 - a. Thus, there will be a natural fellowship of association one with another.
 - b. Acts 2:46 ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,”
 - c. Acts 4:23 ²³ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.”
2. From the opposite side, the world tries to destroy this common possession. 1 Cor. 15:33 ³³ Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”

B. Work with each other.

1. 1 Cor. 3:9 ⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, *ye are* God’s building.”
2. 2 Cor. 6:1 ¹ We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”
3. We have the responsibility to carry out the will of God in preaching the word to a lost world. Only by each and every one working together can this great commission be accomplished.

C. Love one another.

1. John 13:34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
2. John 15:12-13 ¹² This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
3. 1 Pet. 1:22 ²² 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:”
4. 1 John 3:11 ¹¹ For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”
5. 1 John 4:7-12, 20-21 ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. ¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. ¹² No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.... ²⁰ If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that

loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? ²¹ And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”

6. This love involves doing what is best for the other (*AGAPE*).
 - a. This is giving ourselves for other, even to the point of dying for them.
 - b. This will eliminate all the petty squabbles, murmuring, backbiting, gossiping that goes on in the church today.
 - c. If we loved as we should this will make a difference on the world.

Conclusion: The Christians attitude is important. If we as Christians do not have the proper attitudes (about the world, sinners, Christ, and other Christians) our eternal destiny is in jeopardy.