

PROPER ATTITUDES

I. Attitudes toward God.

- A. Love.
 - 1. We must have the right kind of love toward God.
 - 2. Jesus defined that kind of love in Matthew 22:37.
 - 3. Do we love the Lord with all of our heart, soul and mind?
- B. Faith and trust.
 - 1. Hebrews 11:1.
 - 2. Hebrews 11:6.
 - 3. Do we have the kind of faith that pleases God?
 - 4. If not, we must study His word (Romans 10:17).
- C. Thankfulness.
 - 1. Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 5:20.
 - 2. God condemned the Gentile world in part, because they failed to be thankful (Romans 1:18-21).

II. Attitudes toward ourselves.

- A. Humility.
 - 1. A humble estimation of self is vital (Romans 12:3, 16).
 - 2. Humility carries with it a willingness to serve (John 13:6-17).
 - 3. Matthew 25:21.
 - 4. Are we humble enough to serve others?
- B. Teachability.
 - 1. To be teachable is to be wise (Proverbs 15:31-32).
 - 2. What is involved in teachability?
 - a. One must have a longing to grow.
 - b. One must be able to learn from correction and to profit from advice or good criticism.
- C. Honesty towards our mistakes.
 - 1. We must be able to admit our sins and faults (James 5:16).
 - 2. We then must be willing to correct them.

III. Attitudes toward our brethren.

- A. Love.
 - 1. John 13:34-35.
 - 2. We have been born again so that we can love one another fervently (1 Peter 1:22-23).
- B. Cooperation.
 - 1. This involves a willingness to work together - which is what God has always intended for His church (1 Corinthians 12:21).
 - 2. We need not only be able to work, but to work together.
- C. Appreciation for others and their work.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 1:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
 - 2. When we truly appreciate the work of others, it will cut down drastically on the criticism and divisiveness that can creep in a congregation.
- D. Submissiveness.

1. Ephesians 5:21.
2. Hebrews. 13:17.
- E. Peaceableness.
 1. We should pursue peace (Romans 14:19).
 2. This part of walking worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1-3).
- F. Hospitality.
 1. Christians are to be hospitable (Romans 12:13).
 2. This includes strangers as well as brethren (Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9).
- G. Warmth, friendliness and openness.
 1. This was evidenced in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:44-47).
 2. It continued with the saints in Antioch (Acts 11:27-30).
- H. Gentleness and meekness.
 1. This is essential in dealing with spiritually weak brethren (Galatians 6:1).
 2. It is also essential in dealing with enemies of Christ (2 Timothy 2:24-26).
- I. Forgiveness, forbearance, patience and longsuffering.
 1. These all overlap and are vital (Ephesians 4:2, 32).
 2. These help us deal with one another properly and overcome any obstacles set up by Satan to destroy our strength and unity.

IV. Attitudes towards our work.

- A. Gratitude for the privilege of our work.
 1. 1 Timothy 1:12; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10.
 2. There is no greater privilege than working with and for Christ in the greatest cause on the face of the earth.
- B. Enthusiasm and eagerness.
 1. 2 Corinthians 9:7.
 2. More than just our finances should be considered when this attitude is discussed.
- C. Industriousness, diligence and energy.
 1. We must have a mind to work (Nehemiah 4:6).
 2. Colossians 3:23.
 3. Proverbs 18:9.
- D. Initiative.
 1. We shouldn't have to be constantly reminded of our responsibilities (1 Timothy 4:14).
 2. When we see something that needs to be done, let's do it ourselves without waiting to be asked.
- E. Positiveness.
 1. Philippians 2:14.
 2. Those who constantly complain and grumble are hindrances to the cause of Christ in the local congregation.
- F. Persistence.
 1. John 4:34 - this should be our attitude.
 2. At the end of life we should be able to amen Paul's statement to

Timothy (2 Timothy 4:7).

From a sermon by Mark Copeland.