

ATTITUDES OF THE GODLY

(Prov 16:18 NCV) Pride will destroy a person; a proud attitude leads to ruin.

(Phil 2:5 NIV) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Having the _____ attitude is a vital part of the process of maturing. Without the right attitude, the Bible says we will be _____ (Prov. 16:18). The most dangerous attitude is _____. But there are also several others that are ruinous to Christians maturing. These include-

Maturing as a Christian involves other people! *People* often involve pain, hurt, and humiliation. Look at Jesus and the way some people treated Him! Therefore we need a _____ attitude. Mature believers need to develop a very thick skin. They need to have a _____ attitude which does not undermine the seriousness of their task. The ability to laugh, at yourself, at your situations, is a very relaxing therapy both for you and those you will influence.

Our Focus

If we become *people centred* rather than God centred, we can develop a really bad attitude. We need to recognise that our ministry is *unto* the Lord. That is, we are doing what we do because we _____ the Lord. We see this as the attitude that the Lord was instilling into Peter after the resurrection (Jn. 21:15ff). Our service for God is because we love God. The implications of this for believers are clear according to 1Jn 4:11-12, 20-21.

EVERY MATURE BELIEVER SHOULD HAVE THE MOTIVATION OF A SHEPHERD

The consistent picture of God through the Scriptures is that of a _____. The image of a shepherd generates feelings of warmth, affection, oversight, care and leadership. Both the Father and the _____ are identified as being shepherds (Ps 23; Jn 10). It was the heart cry of both the Father and the Son that the mature among God's people have a shepherd's heart. The ascension gift ministries mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 are all *shepherding* ministries. Let's examine the requirements that God expects of shepherds in the Old Testament-

Jeremiah 23 ~

Ezekiel 34 ~

Let's observe what Jesus said in John 10 about what He expected of His leaders~

THE GOAL OF THE MATURE WITHIN THE CHURCH



It is the responsibility of every believer to flow with God. We don't seek to fulfil an agenda and then ask God to bless it, rather we seek to find out what God is blessing and then fulfil that.

Thus our goal as mature believers is to fulfil what God wants. We know from Scripture what kind of people He wants. Examine Ephesians 5:25-27. What does this tell us about the kind of Church Christ wants?

We read in the opening chapters of Revelation a remarkable insight of how Christ speaks to individual congregations. Notice Revelation chapters 2 and 3. What are some of the individual things He says to Churches-

It is therefore the goal of those in leadership to remove all obstacles to growth. We must wisely and gently guide other people into maturity. It is not a matter of trying to change, mould, or make people conform (that is the Holy Spirit's task). Growth is our goal, but it is achieved through removal of impediments, rather than through our own ingenuity.

THE ATTITUDE OF FAITH

We take a radically different approach to assessing our circumstances compared to those in the world (note 2Cor. 5:7). Jesus said that it is only when a believer has faith, that they can accomplish what God has for them (Mat. 21:21; Mk. 11:22).

Where does our faith come from? (Acts 3:16; Rom. 12:3; 1Tim. 1:14)

As Christians we are not called to be optimistic, or pessimistic, but realistic. The world is generally found splashing around in the quag-mire of unrealism, while the Church is founded on the truth of God's Word (which is reality).

No matter what the circumstance, like Abraham of old, we hold on to what God has said. Faith is an essential ingredient to having a right attitude.

It was on this basis that the early church selected its workers (Acts 6:5). We are called to abandon doubt and embrace faith. Only those believers who move in faith, will discover that God is their rewarder (Heb. 11:6).

Let us move on to develop a right attitude which is: an attitude of humility, compassion and concern for others, a desire to flow with God's will, and of faith.