

Godly Attitudes and Qualities

January 16, 2022

Last week we talked about different commands, truths, and principles that are essential for our lives as Christians. As we begin this new year it's important to remind ourselves of these, and to renew our commitment to carry them out, to apply them to our lives.

- Today, I want to look at different character qualities that God wants us to have. We often call these character qualities attitudes, and we need godly attitudes to be and do all that God wants. Well, I have a number of them I want to go over, and so let's get started.

1. Be wise. *"The Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding... Then you will discern righteousness, justice, equity and every good course."* Prov. 2:1-10

- Being wise means you are doing what is right, what is in accordance with God's word, for it is God's word that gives you wisdom, that makes you wise. Prov. 2:1-6, 4:1-9

- Now if you are wise, you know what you should do or say in a particular situation. You know the best course of action. If there's a choice between doing what is good and what is best, you do what is best. Phil. 1:9-11

Now wisdom is something you learn over time. A young person isn't usually wise – he is naïve, and even foolish. But his goal should be to become wise as he gets older.

- Now how do you get wisdom? You get wisdom as you are in God's word. You gain wisdom as you are with older and wiser people. You gain wisdom as you learn from your mistakes and the mistakes of others. You gain wisdom when you ask God for wisdom, and He gives it to you. Solomon, Proverbs 1:7

2. Be humble. Humble comes from a word that means lowly. It means you don't think more highly of yourself than you ought, you're not a proud or arrogant person.

- A humble person doesn't think of himself as being more important than others.

Phil. 2:3 – *"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind consider others as being more important than yourselves."* Phil. 2:4 says, *"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."* The humble person is thinking about others and their needs. When he's with others, he doesn't just talk about himself but asks them how they're doing. A humble person is a servant.

A humble person is also a learner, he is not a know it all. He learns from God and he learns from God's word, and he learns from others, and he learns through trials.

- Finally, a humble person sees himself as needy, and knows that He needs God's help and God's grace. *"God gives grace to the humble."* Psalm 25

3. Be courageous. A courageous person does what is right despite fears or worries.

Now everyone has fears. That's why there are 365 *"do not fear"* vss. in the Bible.

- God wants you to know that you'll face obstacles, you'll have opposition from people, and from the devil, which will result in these fears, which result in you not doing what is right. And God wants you to learn to do what is right, to carry out God's will, regardless of your fears, regardless of how you feel. Joshua 1:9, Luke 1:30

Courageous people may have fears, and may not feel courageous, but they go ahead and do what is right, and God oftentimes then changes how they feel. That is, as they do what God wants them to do, they begin to feel strong and courageous.

- How does a person get courage? 1. Ask God to give it to you. 2. Know that God is with you (Is. 41:10). 3. Learn from the examples of others (Paul – Timothy).

4. Know that God will bless you as you're courageous and do what's right. Josh. 1-10

4. Be positive. A positive person is optimistic, is expecting good things to happen. He is not negative, he is not complaining. A positive person sees problems, he knows things may be difficult, but he believes things will turn out for good, that things are going to be all right. Even though the skies are cloudy, he knows the sun is still shining. A positive person, and I am talking about a positive Christian know that God is good, that God's in control, is sovereign. A positive person has faith in God, is trusting God and not himself. He believes God will be good to Him, and work all things together for good. - And this is how Paul was, and this is how Jesus was. Luke 13:32-33

5. Be patient. The word patient means abiding under or bearing up under. Bad things may be happening – you are experiencing trials or difficulties – you are having some conflict, but you are patient, you are bearing up under the difficulty, the problem. There's the pressure, the weight of some problem, but you bear up, you don't try to get out of it, you don't give up, you don't get mad, you maintain a positive and godly attitude.

Being patient is based on faith. You are trusting God, you believe He is in control, that He'll help you and give you the grace to make it through whatever is happening. James 1:2. When you go through some trial, God is testing you, God wants you to grow in faith, and specifically to be more patient. And having faith in God and being more patient produces endurance; you learn to persevere in spite of the trial, the difficulty. Being patient with people requires faith in God, and also love for the person. A patient person is a loving person. If you're not patient you won't be loving, you'll be hard to get along with, and in fact, you'll often get angry, and may even lash out at a person.

6. Be attentive. This means you are watchful, you're alert, you're aware of what's going on around you. You notice things, you are not oblivious to your surroundings. Good drivers are attentive, are watching other cars, and are not distracted by their phone or something they see on the side of the road, or hear on their radio. But what's most important is being spiritually attentive. It may be a situation with a person – you notice their countenance, or they say something that makes you wonder if something's wrong, or if they are discouraged. Or there may be some sin they're caught in, and you notice it, you are aware of it, and then you try to help them.

It may also relate to what's going on in the world around you. You see what's happening in the culture, you know what's laws are being passed or what policies are being enacted, and what they are teaching your child in school. God wants Christians to be watchmen, to be attentive to what's happening, and especially as we live in the end-times. 1 Chron. 12:32 - *"The men of Issachar understood the times and knew what they should do."* Matt. 24:33, 1 Thess. 5:6-8

7. Be loyal. Now I am talking about being loyal to people. It means continuing on with people, staying with people, sticking with them even if they disappoint you, even if they don't do things just the way you want. It means being faithful to them, to being committed to them over time, going through the years with them. Phil. 2:19-22

Being loyal is an important ingredient for true and lasting friendships. You have heard the phrase, *"a fair-weather friend."* A loyal person stays with you through thick and thin, even if there are problems or conflicts or disagreements.

- A loyal person is a loving person, a forgiving person, a patient person, a forbearing person. And in the church setting we need loyalty, whether it relates to being loyal to other believers, to the leaders, or to the church in general. Loyalty in marriage

8. Be faithful. This is similar to being loyal, and we talked about being loyal to people. But God also wants us to be faithful at a task, to be faithful with some responsibility. That is, you keep doing it until you get it done. It means being faithful at work. It means you keep going to work, you keep doing what you are supposed to do even though it may be boring or repetitive or doing something you don't like to do. That is, you don't give up or quit or turn in the towel when things get hard, when you don't like what you're doing or how things are going. For the Christian, this is important, for we face spiritual battles, we struggle, and we are tempted to give up, and we need to learn to be faithful, whether it is to a person, or the work we are doing. Phil. 1:21-26

9. Be holy. Being holy is one of the most important character qualities God wants you to have. Is. 6 says, *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty."* In 1 Pet. 1:16, God says to us, *"You shall be holy, for I am holy."* Being holy means you are being more godly, you are becoming more like God. It means you are saying no to sin and temptation. When a person gets saved, then God, His heavenly Father, wants him to be holy, and not living a life dominated by sin, by fear, anger, pride, selfishness, impurity, or laziness, etc. Christians will have problems if sin controls their lives, but be blessed if they are holy.

Psalm 119:132 tells us how to pray with regards to sin: *“Establish my footsteps in your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.”* And 1 John 1:9 tells us what happens when we confess our sin. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* I can’t stress enough the importance of being holy, of being holy in our thoughts, words, and actions. Being holy is how we please God, how we’re good witnesses to the lost and how we’re examples to believers, and is necessary to do the work God wants us to do. 2 Tim. 2

10. Be kind. Being kind is one major way that we show people that we love them. 1 Cor. 13:4 says, *“love is kind.”* And so being kind has to do with your relationships, to how you treat people that you are with. Col. 3:12 says, *“put on a heart of kindness.”*
- A kind person means being good to others, being nice to others, it means you are gracious to others, are pleasant to others, and are giving to others.

A kind person is not being mean to others. A kind person wants to help others, not hurt others. A kind person is not selfish but is other’s oriented and is thinking how he can be a blessing to others, or how he can bring blessing to another person. It may be seen in a kind word you say to another person. Being complimentary is being kind. Being encouraging is being kind.
- Being kind may be seen in something you do for someone, or something you give to him. You go out to eat, and you pay for the meal. If it’s someone’s birthday, you send a note. If someone’s sick, you send over a meal, or an encouraging email. Abigail. Now being kind often has to do with giving something to someone or doing something for someone, but they don’t deserve it. And wasn’t this how God was with us? John 3:16

And so we’re talking about the kind of attitudes, the kind of character qualities that God wants us to have as Christians. We are to be wise, to be humble, to be courageous, positive, patient, attentive, loyal, faithful, holy, and kind.
- Now one thing you need to remember is this – you can only have these qualities by the grace of God. Having these qualities is a result of God, through His Spirit, supernaturally working in your heart, giving you the grace to be like this.
- And so, pray and ask God to help you grow in these areas. And next week, we will talk about more godly attitudes, character qualities that God wants you to have.