

GODLY ATTITUDES - Part 2

January 30, 2022

As we start this new year we're talking about godly attitudes, the character qualities God wants us to have. Whether we're at home, at work, at church, or with people, we need these godly attitudes, they are essential for our lives as Christians. Last week we looked at 10 different attitudes, 10 different character qualities. We talked about being wise, being humble, being courageous, being positive, being patient, being loyal, being attentive, being faithful, being holy, and being kind. Well, let's continue:

11. Have integrity. A person who has integrity has solid moral principles and convictions, ones based on the Bible. He is honest, he tells the truth, he doesn't lie. He does what is right, he doesn't cheat, and he is not deceptive. He's honorable, one who is respected, who doesn't have some obvious moral flaw. He's dependable, a person you can trust. The word integrity is a big word, a very important word, for it includes a lot of qualities. Now an elder in the church must have integrity, or as the Bible says, he must be one who is above reproach. 1 Tim. 3:1-7

12. Be hard working. This has to do with both physical work and mental work. First, if you are working at a physical job, you need to be hard working.

- It means working even when you are tired. Joshua 10:9
- It means working without taking a lot of breaks.
- It means you are not working slowly, you are not a slacker, you are not lazy, you are not a sluggard. It means you are working quickly. Proverbs
- It means working heartily, with energy, with zeal. Col. 3:23-24, Mark 12:30

Now if your job is more mental, then it means your mind is engaged in your work, your mind stays occupied with your work.

- It means you are thinking and are using the brain that God gave you.
- It means you don't daydream, you don't get easily distracted, you don't mentally disengage from the work you are doing.
- It means you don't give in to sinful temptations when you are working.
- It means you keep working even when you're mentally tired, or when your body is tired.
- It means you're diligent, a word that sums up some of these qualities we're talking about. A diligent person is steady, persistent, persevering, and energetic in his work.

A hard-working person makes the most of the time. He's tired at the end of the day. He is satisfied with the work he is doing. This is such an important character quality that God wants you to have. Indeed, a hard-working person accomplishes a lot for God. 2 Tim. 2:6

13. Take initiative. A person who takes initiative sees a need, sees a problem, or knows that some person is hurting, and he does something about it. He has an idea of what to do, he has the desire to do something, and then he does it. It may be something he says or something he does.

In all this, you are not thinking about yourself, you're not being selfish, you're thinking about the needs of others, you're observant, you see and hear things, and you initiate, and you do what you can do to help in that particular situation. In all this, you are being led by the Spirit. The Spirit is prompting you to take action, to do or say something, and you're not waiting to be told by someone else what to do. - God puts every one of you in situations where there's some kind of need and He wants you to take initiative, to do what you can to solve the problem, to meet the need. And when you take initiative, you're being loving, kind, and helpful. Abigail - 1 Sam. 25

14. Be zealous. A zealous person has energy, physical, mental, and spiritual energy. Now a zealous person is using his heart, mind, soul, and strength. A zealous person is hard-working. And he's determined, excited, energetic, and passionate - he loves the work he is doing. You can be zealous in a relationship, at work, doing a task, or being holy. Ps. 106:30 - Phineas, 2 Kings 10:16 - Jehu, Rom 12:11

15. Be flexible. God wants us to plan ahead, but He also wants us to be flexible, to be willing to change our plans, to take a different course, to be willing to adapt, to not be so fixated in our work that we can't change what we're doing or are planning on doing. - Prov. 16:9. I encourage you to plan ahead, but if God changes your plans, be flexible, be ready and willing to do what He wants you to do. Or if you're at work, and your boss tells you to do something different, be flexible and do what he or she wants you to do. You can only do God's will if you're flexible. As you go through life, there's no doubt that God will at times change your plans, and have you do something different than what you're thinking of doing. Numb. 9, 33 - the Jews; Acts 16:6-10 - Paul

16. Be giving. A giving person realizes that what he has that is good is what God gave to Him. James 1:17-19, 1 Chron. 29:12-16
- A giving person realizes that he has freely received from God, that he didn't deserve the good things God gave him, that he didn't pay for them or earn them. Matt. 10:8
- A giving person knows it is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35
- A giving person understands that if he gives to another person, then God will keep giving to him so that he can keep giving to others. 2 Cor. 9:8-11
- As you go through life, be a giver – give your time, give your money, give food, use your spiritual and physical gifts for others. When you give something to another person, you are to do it willingly and cheerfully. *“God loves a cheerful giver.”* 2 Cor. 9:8

17. Be sacrificial. The sacrificial person is a giving person. And God wants Christians to be sacrificial, to sacrifice their lives. 2 Cor. 12:15

- A sacrificial person is not a selfish person, but is a servant - he is not just thinking about what he wants, he is thinking about others and what they need. 2 Cor. 8:1-7
- A sacrificial person sacrifices his money for others. He sacrifices his sleep for others. He sacrifices his time for others. He sacrifices his resources and possessions for others. He sacrifices his personal desires for the needs of others. Jesus was like this – Lk. 22:27.
- Eph. 5:1. We see the heart of a sacrificial person when they love others with an agape love. And so too - we will sacrifice for others when we love them like Jesus loves us.

18. Be hopeful. A hopeful person is a forward-looking person. He is not stuck in the past or stuck in the present, but he is looking ahead, he is thinking about the future, he is believing that good days are ahead. Some people are bogged down in the past. The problems of the past still affect this person, still upset him, are still dragging him down, and they see no way things will get better. Or a person may think that the past, the good old days were much better than the present. The person may be discouraged by what's happening in the present, by the difficult trials or conflicts he's experiencing.

In every one of these situations, the person needs hope, he needs to know that God has a good future for him. Now this hope can relate to the future God has for him on this earth. He believes God is in control, that God is sovereign, that God will get him through the trials he's going through, that everything is going to work out, that better days are ahead. But it also, and more so, relates to after his life on earth, when he is in heaven, when all his problems are forever gone, when all is perfect and wonderful and glorious.

- A person who is hopeful believes that God is loving, that God has good plans for his life. He is not trusting himself, but has faith in God, is believing that God Himself will come through for Him. And he has promises. Rom. 8:28, Ps. 23:6, Rev. 22:12

19. Be considerate. This is one way to love others. You are thinking about them, and what they want or need. Phil. 2:3-4. You see others as more important than yourself.

- It means you are looking out for that other person, and what they would like. Luke 6:31
- It means you are not being rude - you are being polite, you have good manners.
- It means you are opening the door for that other person.
- It means you are willing to turn the temperature in the room either up or down, depending on what they like.
- It means if you call someone on the phone, you ask if that's a good time to talk to them.
- It means if you have someone over for supper, you cook something they like.
- Indeed, there are all kinds of way to be considerate.

20. Be joyful. This is an important attitude God wants every Christian to have. And God wants us to have joy all the time, no matter what is happening. Phil. 4:4 says, *“Rejoice in the Lord always.”* And so true joy relates to the Lord, is dependent on Him, and not anyone or anything else. Here is what Jms. 1:2 says, *“Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials.”* God wants us to have joy in spite of our circumstances. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22 says, *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...”* It’s only by the Spirit, only by the supernatural power of God that you can have real joy.

Having joy also relates to knowing the truth. Psalm 13:1-6. Life is hard for this person, but he rejoices because he knows he is saved, and that the Lord loves him. Luke 10:20 We also can rejoice because we know that God reigns, that God is ruling over all things, that God is in complete control. Psalm 97:1 – *“The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice.”* Psalm 68:1-3 - We can rejoice, we can be glad, because we know that God is defeating and will defeat our enemies, whether that relates to the devil, or evil people, or just sin.

Romans 15:13. Here we learn that a joyful person has faith. He is trusting God. He is not trusting himself or others or his circumstances. We see that joy, as we said before, is by the power of the Holy Spirit. We see that joy is related to having peace and hope. That is, joy, peace, and hope all go together. Phil. 4:4-7

Well, we have talked about 10 godly attitudes God wants every Christian to have. We’re to have integrity, we’re to be hard-working, zealous, flexible, giving, sacrificial, and we are to take initiative, and be hopeful, considerate, and joyful. All these are necessary attitudes to have if you are to have a successful, fruitful, and God-glorifying year. And remember, it’s not by your ability or power that you can have these attitudes, it’s all by the grace of God, and the power of the Spirit. And next week we will talk more about the Holy Spirit.