

# ATTITUDES

2Cor 10:5

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Attitude is defined as: A mental position with regard to a fact or state. A feeling or emotion toward a fact or state.  
Position or bearing as indicating action, feeling, or mood
- B. Attitudes can be classified as POSITIVE or NEGATIVE, GOOD or BAD. (bringing into captivity every thought v.5)
- C. Illustrations of good and bad attitudes
  - 1. David - GLAD Psa 122:1
  - 2. Eunuch - REJOICING Acts 8:39
  - 3. Naaman got - MAD 2Ki 5:11
  - 4. Rich young ruler - SAD Mk 10:22
- D. Attitudes determine the course of one's life, whether it's a success or Failure
- E. Today we want to talk about some bad or unacceptable attitudes.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. REBELLIOUS ATTITUDE Jonah 1:1-3; 1Sam 15:23

- A. I don't have to - a challenge to authority - I will not Matt 21:29
  - 1. Children - wives - husbands - citizens – everyone
  - 2. Church members - attendance - dress – language
  - 3. Alien sinners - baptism Mk 16:16
- B. You can't make me do it!
  - 1. That's right, but as my dad use to say: "I'll make you wish you had"
  - 2. Just being unco-operative - husband with wife – children with parents - Christians with each other
- C. I want to do it my way 2Kings 5:10-13 (Naaman)
- D. Shift responsibility to someone else - refusal to accept responsibility for own sins and inadequacies – Adam blamed Eve - Eve blamed the devil
  - 1. Husband forces wife to be head
  - 2. Make church responsible for individual activity
  - 3. Some just want no responsibility - Minnie Pearl's brother: "He's no failure, he just started at the bottom and likes it there."

### II. SELFISH ATTITUDE Gen 13:10-11 (Lot's choice)

- A. What's in it for me? Micah 3:11;
- B. This is my time; money; effort 1Cor 10:24; Phil 2:4, 21; Jas 2:15; 1Jhn 3:17
- C. I don't want to: Rom 15:1
- D. Let someone else - give - sing - pray – etc - But if I have to, I will 2Cor 9:7

### III. FEARFUL ATTITUDE MATT 25:25 (one talent man)

- A. Examples of this attitude:

- 1. Abraham called Sarah his sister Gen 12:11-19; Gen 20:2-12
- 2. Ten spies Num 13:28, 31-33
- 3. Israel afraid to take the land Num 14:1-5
- B. Of what are we afraid Prov 28:1;29:25; 2Tim 4:16
  - 1. Rejection – disapproval
  - 2. Being made fun of
  - 3. Failure
- C. I would if I could, but I can't - afraid we don't have enough ability – ability can be developed
- D. I don't have enough: time, money, etc
  - 1. All have same amount of time
  - 2. God doesn't require a lot of material wealth, just a willingness to serve

### IV. SUPERIOR ATTITUDE Matt 20:20-28 (mother of James and John)

- A. This involves arrogance, pride and conceit.
  - 1. This attitude results in our ruin Prov 15:5,10,12,25
  - 2. Note what God would do to those who were showing an air of superiority by their dress and demeanor Isa 3:16-26
- B. I can do it better than you - let me do it Prov 27:2
- C. Then there is the fault-finder Prov 30:12; Matt 7:1-5
- D. Or the dictator - my way or none 3Jhn 1:9,10

### V. COMPROMISING ATTITUDE Ex 8:25, 28; 10:11,24 (Pharaoh)

- A. Sometimes good - sometimes bad
  - 1. Necessary in matters of judgment Matt 5:25,26; Prov 20:3; 1Cor 6:1-8; 8:13
  - 2. Stand firm in matters of faith Eph 6:10-19; Rom 14:23
- B. Sometimes due to indifference as was Pilate - just go with the will of the people Matt 27:17, 24; 2Tim 4:3
- C. Sometimes lack of conviction 1Cor 16:13; Acts 4:19,20; Acts 5:29
- D. Must not give place - Paul would not Gal 2:5

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Our attitude toward God should be one of appreciation, acceptance and obedience to His will
- B. Our attitude toward each other should be one of caring, self-sacrificing service, thereby serving God. Matt 25:31-40
- C. What is your attitude? Remember how important your attitude is: Our attitude controls our living, fixes our character and determines our eternal destiny (remember bringing into captivity every thought v.5)