

LESSON 35: CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN HAVING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

(I) ATTITUDES

A. Out with the old and in with the new

1. Eph. 4:22-24

- a. First, we need to recognize that when we come to God we come with defeated thinking and actions due to wrong old attitudes.
- b. Secondly, we need to understand that we are to cooperate with the renewal process. Romans 12:1,2
- c. Actions spring from attitudes. That's why Jesus attacked attitudes during His sermon on the Mount.
- d. We will begin to work on rearranging our attitude, thus affecting our action.

2. Humility through service

- a. Humility is never gained by seeking it. The more we pursue it, the more distant it becomes. Service is the most conducive to the growth of humility.
- b. Nothing disciplines the inordinate desires of the flesh like service and nothing transforms the desires of flesh like serving in hidden ness.
- c. The old nature is infatuated with natural human power and abilities without any dependence upon God. 1 John 2:16
- d. We must make a daily discipline of service in order to keep our flesh in check, we must also see the difference between choosing to serve and choosing to be a servant.
- e. When we choose to serve, we are still in charge. When we become a servant, we give up the right to be in charge.

f. Service is not connected with status. We are all to become servants.

g. Service must have a visible outworking if it is a genuine attitude so this is how it may look in our lives.

- 1) The service of hiddenness to cultivate tasks of service that remain generally unknown.
- 2) The service of guarding the reputation of others. Titus 3:2
- 3) The service of small things like Dorcas. Act. 9:39
- 4) The service of being served. Peter refused at first to let Jesus wash his feet.
- 5) The service of common courtesy. Titus 3:2
- 6) The service of hospitality. 1 Peter 4:9
- 7) The service of listening. To listen to others quiets and disciplines the mind to listen to God.
- 8) The service of bearing the burdens of each other. Gal 6:2
- 9) The service of sharing the word of life with one another.

3. Submission way to true freedom

- a. Freedom through the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our way.
- b. The touch stone for the biblical understanding is Mark 8:34

- 1) Self-denial is the lesson, the result is our happiness is not dependent upon getting what we want.
- 2) Self-denial means to hold others interests above self interest. In this way, self-denial releases us from self pity.
- 3) Self-denial is the touchstone for the discipline of submission.

c. Submission as taught by Jesus

- 1) Phil. 2:8
- 2) Mark 8:34
- 3) Mark 9:35
- 4) John 13:15

d. Submission as taught in the epistles

- 1) Eph. 5:21
- 2) Phil. 2:3
- 3) Col. 3:18-22

e. The limits of submission

- 1) Matt. 22:37-39
 - a) 1 Peter 2:13,14 reconciled with Acts 4:19-20 and Acts 5:29
 - b) Romans 13:1 reconciled with Acts 16-37
- 2) When defining the limits of submission we are thrown upon a deep dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

f. The acts of submission

- 1) To the triune God
- 2) To scripture, first to hear, second receive, third to obey.
- 3) To our family. Phil. 2:4
- 4) To our neighbors and those we meet in the course of our daily lives.
- 5) To the believing community, the body of Christ.
- 6) To the broken and despised. James 1:27
- 7) To the world. Live as a responsible member of an increasingly irresponsible world.

Pray for friends, family and co-workers. Do something good this that only God knows about.

