PROPER ATTITUDES

I. Attitudes toward God.
   A. Love.
      1. We must have the right kind of love toward God.
      2. Jesus defined that kind of love in Matthew 22:37.
      3. Do we love the Lord with all of our heart, soul and mind?
   B. Faith and trust.
      3. Do we have the kind of faith that pleases God?
      4. If not, we must study His word (Romans 10:17).
   C. Thankfulness.
      2. God condemned the Gentile world in part, because they failed to be thankful (Romans 1:18-21).

II. Attitudes toward ourselves.
   A. Humility.
      1. A humble estimation of self is vital (Romans 12:3, 16).
      2. Humility carries with it a willingness to serve (John 13:6-17).
      4. Are we humble enough to serve others?
   B. Teachability.
      1. To be teachable is to be wise (Proverbs 15:31-32).
      2. What is involved in teachability?
         a. One must have a longing to grow.
         b. One must be able to learn from correction and to profit from advice or good criticism.
   C. Honesty towards our mistakes.
      1. We must be able to admit our sins and faults (James 5:16).
      2. We then must be willing to correct them.

III. Attitudes toward our brethren.
   A. Love.
      2. We have been born again so that we can love one another fervently (1 Peter 1:22-23).
   B. Cooperation.
      1. This involves a willingness to work together - which is what God has always intended for His church (1 Corinthians 12:21).
      2. We need not only be able to work, but to work together.
   C. Appreciation for others and their work.
      1. 1 Corinthians 1:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
      2. When we truly appreciate the work of others, it will cut down drastically on the criticism and divisiveness that can creep in a congregation.
   D. Submissiveness.

E. Peaceableness.
   1. We should pursue peace (Romans 14:19).
   2. This part of walking worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1-3).

F. Hospitality.
   1. Christians are to be hospitable (Romans 12:13).
   2. This includes strangers as well as brethren (Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9).

G. Warmth, friendliness and openness.
   1. This was evidenced in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:44-47).

H. Gentleness and meekness.
   1. This is essential in dealing with spiritually weak brethren (Galatians 6:1).
   2. It is also essential in dealing with enemies of Christ (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

I. Forgiveness, forbearance, patience and longsuffering.
   1. These all overlap and are vital (Ephesians 4:2, 32).
   2. These help us deal with one another properly and overcome any obstacles set up by Satan to destroy our strength and unity.

IV. Attitudes towards our work.
A. Gratitude for the privilege of our work.
   1. 1 Timothy 1:12; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10.
   2. There is no greater privilege than working with and for Christ in the greatest cause on the face of the earth.

B. Enthusiasm and eagerness.
   1. 2 Corinthians 9:7.
   2. More than just our finances should be considered when this attitude is discussed.

C. Industriousness, diligence and energy.
   1. We must have a mind to work (Nehemiah 4:6).

D. Initiative.
   1. We shouldn’t have to be constantly reminded of our responsibilities (1 Timothy 4:14).
   2. When we see something that needs to be done, let’s do it ourselves without waiting to be asked.

E. Positiveness.
   2. Those who constantly complain and grumble are hindrances to the cause of Christ in the local congregation.

F. Persistence.
   1. John 4:34 - this should be our attitude.
   2. At the end of life we should be able to amen Paul’s statement to
Timothy (2 Timothy 4:7).

From a sermon by Mark Copeland.