

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE (Colossians 3:15-17)

1. Analyzing attitude.

- a. Attitude is defined as: “manner, disposition, feeling, position, etc., with regard to a person or thing; tendency or orientation, especially of the mind”.
 - i. It refers to likes and dislikes, and how one reacts to a given situation.
 - ii. It may be positive, negative, or neutral.
 - iii. Proverbs 23:7; 4:23.
- b. We must understand that the proper attitude is extremely important.
 - i. Attitude is vital because it affects everything about us.
 - ii. Attitude is often the difference between success or failure, even life or death.
 - iii. It even affects our work .
 - iv. As we have often heard, attitude determines altitude.
- c. If we have struggled with having a proper attitude we need to realize the possibility of change.
 - i. Attitudes can be changed through persuasion.
 - ii. Attitudes can be changed by choice.
 - iii. Gratitude comes from an attitude we choose to have.

2. Biblical encouragement for an attitude of gratitude.

- a. Listen to these verses from God’s word.
 - i. Psalm 100:4;
 - ii. Psalm 140:13;
 - iii. 2 Corinthians 9:11;
 - iv. 1 Thessalonians 3:9;
 - v. Colossians 1:12;
 - vi. Philippians 4:6.
- b. Such blessings should be received with gratitude.
 - i. Ephesians 5:20;
 - ii. Colossians 3:17;
 - iii. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

3. An attitude of gratitude.

- a. Why do we sometimes not live, love, work, give, serve, study, or worship as we should?
 - i. Could it be we have become like the Gentile world about which Paul wrote (Romans 1:21)?
 - ii. It may be we are like the nine lepers who did not return to show thanks to Jesus (Luke 17:11-19).
- b. Gratitude says thank you for the past, rejoices in the present, and looks with hope to the future.
 - i. We should look around at the creation of God and then look up to the God of creation.
 - ii. We need to focus on our blessings by telling ourselves and others how blessed we are.
 - iii. We need to tell those who have blessed us how thankful we are, beginning with God.

- c. Gratitude without expression is not true gratitude.
 - i. Gratitude means not taking for granted the gifts given to us, or the good done for us.
 - ii. Gratitude demands expression - it is not enough to say man or God knows how much we appreciate our blessings.
- d. I get called a scrooge at Christmas because I don't really get into Christmas all that much.
 - i. One of the reasons I don't care for Christmas too much is that when gifts are given, I've seen too many people act ungrateful.
 - ii. It seems like many that receive gifts act as if they deserved them and don't show proper gratitude that they received anything.
- e. Christians ought never act this way but be truly grateful for any act of kindness shown to them or gift given to them.

From a sermon by Bobby Liddell