

REFLECTIONS ON ATTITUDES

It has often been said that one's actions tell you a great deal about his attitude. I am convinced that this is true and that by observing the actions of some it is evident some attitudes need to be changed.

What is our attitude toward truth and the teaching of truth? We have all seen those who accept the truth only if it pleases them or is in agreement with what they already believe. These will not examine any teaching upon the basis of it being "right or wrong," but upon the basis of "I like it or I do not like it." The fact that you may be able to present Bible authority for what you are teaching does not really matter to these individuals. If they do not like what you teach they will not receive it. Sometimes they will deliberately misrepresent what you say and teach if they do not agree with you or do not like what you say. I had one man to accuse me of teaching that "we are not human" because I questioned the practice of some who try to cover up or excuse sin by saying, "After all, we're just human." This clearly indicates the wrong attitude toward truth and the teaching of truth. One who has the proper attitude toward truth will always be open-minded and will investigate that which is taught to make sure it is the truth (Acts 17:11).

Again, what is your attitude toward the church which Christ purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28)? Those who teach that one church is as good as another or that it doesn't matter what church one is a member of indicate by such teaching that they do not make any distinction between the Lord's church and the many churches that have been established by men. Many will close their minds to the possibility that they may be members of some church unknown to God. We should all desire to learn what we need to do to become members of that one body (church) we read about in the New Testament (Ephesians 4:4,5 cf. Ephesians 1:22,23).

I would also like to ask those who are members of the Lord's church about their attitude toward their responsibilities as members of the church. What attitude do you have toward studying God's word or assembling with the saints to worship God? Some spend little or no time in studying God's word. They will not take advantage of classes designed to teach God's word. Can such an individual really believe that he is pleasing to God with such an attitude toward the study of God's word? Others show the wrong attitude toward the public assemblies by being habitually late for each assembly. Do we show this kind of attitude toward other activities? Do you show this kind of attitude toward your job? Individuals usually are habitually late for those things to which they attach little importance. When we see members who are late nearly every time we meet it tells us that they do not consider assembling with the saints to worship God an important activity. It indicates they consider such an assembly a casual affair demanding only half-hearted interest and effort. Some may disagree with these conclusions, but, sometimes, actions speak louder than words.

Let each of us examine our attitude toward God and serving Him. Let us make sure we are motivated by love and devotion to Him and His word in all we say and do. This is the only attitude we can have and be pleasing in His sight. Without this attitude one cannot please God.

✍ James Hahn