

ATTITUDE, HOW IS OURS?

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Our attitude really says a great deal about us, doesn't it? As we travel through life one discovers that they may be absolutely correct on a subject, but our attitude can stink and reverse any influence we may have on another.

God is a God of love, but at times He demonstrates His anger with sin (flood in Noah's day; Genesis 6-9), and (the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; Genesis 19). This could be paralleled with the responsible parent who disciplines his child. Solomon said that if a parent loved a child he or she would not spare the rod (Proverbs 13:24). Seemingly, many young parents are not doing such today. No doubt this could be taking place because the Bible is not opened as frequently as in the past.

When a person has an attitude that I am the only Christian or my group is the only one who is of God's elect - this is a dangerous attitude. No doubt most of us would like to think that we are doing what God expects of us in method of worship and in living a God directed life. However, we seem to forget that God has given us a great deal of freedom when it comes to religion and styles of worship.

If we have been raised in a small rural congregation and have been taught that "this is the way, and the only way" we may feel that the large city sophisticated church who does things a little differently is really "not of God".

Now, one must rely upon the Bible for a standard. As a good student of the Word one will allow freedom in styles of worship and be slow to condemn someone who does not do everything just as we do. Certain things are taught that this preacher believes are perfectly plain. Some of these are the: **Bible's plan of salvation** which teaches that one **must**:

1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (Acts 16:31) 2) Repent Of Sins (Acts 17:30)
3) Confess Christ Audibly (Acts 8:37) 4) Be Baptized In Water (Acts 2:38)
5) Live A Christian Life (Acts 14:22) Also - "Communion" every Sunday (Acts 20:7) seems to be very plain. However, **let us remember** all will answer to the Creator for any willful disobedience, but, may we be slow to do the judging, other than righteous judging (John 7:24). No one appreciates a politician who is a "mud slinger" nor a manufacturer who is critical of his competitor's product.

Shouldn't our attitude be, "We are not the only Christians, but Christians only". Flies are always drawn better by honey than vinegar. Thus, when sharing our faith a good positive attitude will always go much further in recruiting for Jesus than a negative and "know it all" attitude.

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