

Jesus' Attitude

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A list of rules does not affect the realm of attitudes or mindsets. You can follow rules on the outside and have the wrong attitude inside, like the Pharisees. *Then the Lord said to him, "Now then you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." Luke 11:39*

God looks to your attitude. *"...The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7*

Read Philippians 2:3-4.

What attitudes should you avoid?

What attitudes should you pursue?

Which attitudes from this passage do you think you need to work on?

- Do nothing out of selfish ambition. (Do you sometimes use situations to benefit yourself?)
- Do nothing out of vain conceit. (Do you feel some tasks are "below" you? Do you sometimes want to be the center of attention?)
- Practice humility.
- Value others above yourself.
- Look out for the interests of others.

Take a moment to pray: Turn any items you noted above into a prayer asking God to help you change your attitude.

Your attitude is especially revealed when someone asks you to submit to authority or to serve others. Youth with a Mission leadership training includes household duties such as cleaning toilets. If people serve faithfully with a good attitude, they qualify for further training. Jesus set this example, as you will see in the following passages. The way up is through the way down.

Read Philippians 2:5-8.

Who does this passage say Jesus is? (Verse 6)

What did He choose not to grasp or use to His own advantage?

Whenever you grasp and strive to hold on to something, you will crush the life out of it. You'll crush the life out of relationships if you respond out of fear, jealousy, or control. You'll crush the life out of people you are leading if you're determined to protect your position and reputation. You gain authentic influence through serving.

When you feel yourself grasping at position, reputation, or people in your life, remember Jesus' example. Although He had every right to all authority and position, He did not grasp it. He released His hold on it, laid it down, and served us. Jesus asks you to follow Him, laying down your "rights." Then you can freely serve with nothing to fear and nothing to protect.



For whoever wants to save [grasp] their life will lose it, but whoever loses [surrenders] their life for me and for the gospel will save it. Mark 8:35

What words below indicate Christ's descent from His glorious throne?

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage [grasped]; rather, he made himself nothing [laid aside His privileges] by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! Philippians 2:6-8 (emphasis added)

When you follow Jesus as His disciple, you walk the same path He walked. This is the attitude of Christ: serving in obedience.

In what ways do you find yourself resistant to serving your family, co-workers, or roommates (humbling yourself)?

In what ways do you find yourself resistant to yielding to and cooperating with authority (humbling yourself)?

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus... Philippians 2:5 Practice the same attitude Jesus had when He chose to leave His throne of glory and lay down His life even for those who rejected Him. Whenever you struggle to humbly serve your brother or sister, consider carefully how far Jesus descended to humbly serve you. When you begin to balk at submission to your authorities, consider the extent of Jesus' submission to purchase your salvation.

What words from Philippians 2:9-11 below indicate Christ's ascent and return to His glorious throne?

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11 (emphasis added)



Jesus did not grasp His life, but took the position of a servant with no reputation or notoriety.

Therefore, Who exalted Him?

When you follow Jesus as His disciple, you walk the same path. Be willing to serve as Christ showed you. Be willing to obey God and be unknown. Let God the Father exalt you in His way, His time.

Make Christ's attitude your way of life. When He returns, you will reign with Him because you served with Him. The way up is the way down.

Just as Christ was obedient to the cross, He invites you to do the same. Take up your cross – die to your rights to do things your way. Follow the One who revealed the depths of His love for you. You'll live in resurrection life that is truly life – doing things His way.

And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

What is your cross? It's not unpleasant or bothersome circumstances, or people. Your cross is denying your self-will and doing God's will in moment-by-moment decisions. Your cross is in every place, every moment you die selfishness and lay down your rights to your own way, choosing love instead.