



Discipleship on Godly Attitudes



I. Definition of Godly Attitudes

Attitudes are beliefs or ways of thinking and feeling by which we evaluate people, places, things, or situations around us in either a favorable or unfavorable way. Although attitudes are inside our minds and cannot actually be seen by others, they are observable by the way they influence our actions, mannerisms, words, and tone of voice. Godly attitudes are feelings and attitudes towards the people and circumstances around us which are in agreement with the attitudes that God says we should have. These are the same attitudes, beliefs, and thinking that we see in the life of Jesus Christ. He modeled them perfectly for us (Philippians 2:5). He is to be our example. It is important for all Believers to develop these godly attitudes because they will eventually determine the way we talk and act.

The core Godly attitudes are the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Other godly attitudes include humility, forgiveness, thankfulness, generosity, contentment, friendliness, acceptance, etc. These are the result of the Holy Spirit's work in our new nature.

Ungodly attitudes in the Believer must be confronted, confessed, and forsaken before they become life-long habits. These include being hateful, prejudiced, lustful, selfish, ungrateful, apathetic, self-centered, vengeful, greedy, proud, angry, bitter, argumentative, etc. They are a product of the sin nature that you inherited at birth and are attitudes that you must learn how to get victory over by the power of the Holy Spirit and the new nature that you received at salvation (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:16-18). The good news is you can get victory over this old nature and the attitudes stemming from it (1 John 4:4; 5:4).

II. Key Verses on Godly Attitudes

A. The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23a



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control . . ."

◆ Write some examples of each of these which are appropriate for the age you are discipling

✓ Love

✓ Joy

- ✓Peace
- ✓Longsuffering
- ✓Kindness
- ✓Goodness
- ✓Faithfulness
- ✓Gentleness
- ✓Self-control

Note: These are referred to as “fruit,” not “fruits.” This means that the Holy Spirit dwelling in you is trying to develop all of these in your life. You cannot pick and choose the ones you want. All of them need to become a part of you.

B. Other Verses about Godly Attitudes

1. Proverbs 23:7



"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

- ◆How does what we think in our hearts determine who we are and what we become?

2. Matthew 5:43-44



"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

- ◆How can you show love to an “enemy”?
- ◆Why should you pray for those who persecute you?

3. Matthew 15:19



"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."

- ◆How do these seriously sinful actions come from our hearts (inner thoughts/attitudes)?

4. *Mark 7:21-23*

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

- ◆ Notice that “evil thoughts” (a noun) are at the top of this list of sinful attitudes and actions (verbs), indicating they are the source of them all (the core of your sinful nature list). Who was it who revealed the fact that we become what we think?

5. *Romans 6:6,11-12*

"Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts."

- ◆ Why should you no longer be a slave to sinful attitudes of the old nature?
- ◆ What does it mean to “consider yourselves to be dead to sin” (i.e., sinful attitudes)?
- ◆ What does it mean to not allow sin to reign in your body?

6. *Romans 12:2*

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

- ◆ What does the “world” refer to here?
- ◆ How does the “world” try to shape our attitudes in ungodly ways?
- ◆ How can you “renew your mind”?

7. 2 Corinthians 10:5



"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

- ◆What does it mean to take every thought “captive to the obedience of Christ”?

8. Galatians 5:19-21



"Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

- ◆What is the source of all these evil attitudes and actions?

9. Ephesians 4:32



"And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

- ◆What does “forgiveness” mean?
- ◆What does it mean that we are to forgive others as Christ forgave us?

10. Philippians 2:5



"Let this mind (attitude) be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

- ◆What does it mean to have the “mind” of Christ Jesus (refer to 2:6-8)?

11. *Philippians 4:8*

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

- ♦What does it mean to think only on things that have the following qualities? Give examples of each and give examples of the opposite of each.

True →

Opposite =

Honorable →

Opposite =

Right →

Opposite =

Pure →

Opposite =

Lovely →

Opposite =

Good repute →

Opposite =

Excellence →

Opposite =

Praise worthy →

Opposite =

Notice the counsel: “Think on these things . . .”

12. *1 Thessalonians 5:16,18*



"Rejoice always . . . In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

- ◆ How can you rejoice when difficult things happen to you (cf. Rom. 5:3-4)?

13. *Hebrews 13:5a*



"Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have . . ."

- ◆ What does it mean to be free from the love of money (and what it can buy)?
- ◆ What is the meaning of being content with what you have at any point in life?

14. *Hebrews 13:16*



"And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

- ◆ Why should we generously share what we have with others?
- ◆ How is doing these a “sacrifice” God is pleased with?

15. *James 4:6*



"But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, 'God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'"

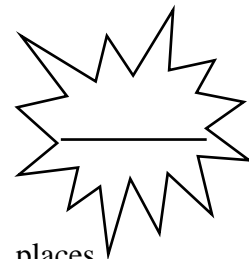
- ◆ What does humility mean?
- ◆ What are some specific ways to demonstrate humility?
- ◆ Why do we need to be humble?

16. *1 John 4:4b; 5:4*

"... Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

- ◆ Who in the Believer is greater than Satan, the ruler of this evil world system?
- ◆ How can the Holy Spirit help you get victory over your wrong attitudes and the actions which are a result of your wrong attitudes?

III. Important Teaching on Godly Attitudes



A. Teach the Definition of Godly Attitudes

- ◆ Attitudes are the beliefs and feelings inside us that we form about people, places, things, and situations around us.
- ◆ Attitudes are inside us, but they show themselves by how we talk and behave.
- ◆ Godly attitudes are feelings and attitudes that agree with how God says we should think and feel. These are the attitudes we see in Jesus.

B. Teach About Ungodly Attitudes, Their Source, and the Struggle We Have with Them

Teach that the ungodly attitudes he inherited from his sinful nature at birth are sinful and must be confessed and forsaken when he yields to them (Gal. 5:19-21).

- ◆ **Pride** for my abilities or accomplishments (Proverbs 26:12)
- ◆ **Revenge** at someone for something he did to hurt me (Proverbs 24:29)
- ◆ **Pouting** about not getting what I want (1 Kings 21:4)
- ◆ **Envy** someone else's abilities or possessions (James 3:16)
- ◆ **Anger** towards a person or thing that affected my plans (Proverbs 29:22)
- ◆ **Bitterness** is hanging on to a past hurt that I will not forgive (Hebrews 12:15)
- ◆ **Prejudice** is a feeling that some people are inferior to me (James 2:1-4)
- ◆ **Lusting** is intensely wanting someone or something in a wrong way, a way God says "no" to (1 John 2:16-17)
- ◆ **Selfishness** is only thinking of me and what I want, or not sharing with others; wanting the biggest or best (2 Timothy 3:2)
- ◆ **Hating** something or someone; wanting something bad to happen to them (1 John 2:11)

Unbelievers cannot fully control their old nature.

C. Deal with Bad Attitudes



1. Ask God to make you aware of any wrong attitude (Psalm 139:23-24).
2. Recognize and confess any sinful attitude, no matter how “small” (1 John 1:9).
3. Ask God to give you victory over wrong attitudes that you continue to struggle with (Romans 6:11-12; 1 John 4:4). Some wrong attitudes die hard.

*Choose to reject that attitude when you sense its presence. Consider yourself “dead” to that sinful attitude (2 Corinthians 10:5; Romans 6:6,11-12).

Pray: *"Dear God, I reject that attitude because it is sinful."*

*Ask God to give you victory over that attitude (1 Corinthians 10:13).

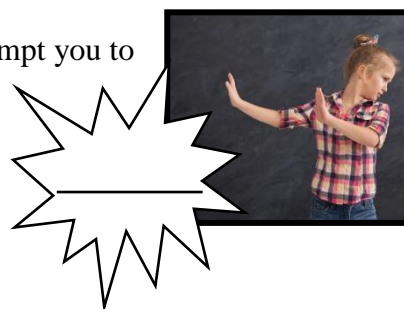
Pray: *"Give me the power to say no to this temptation."*

4. Guard (protect) your heart against wrong attitudes (Prov. 4:23).
 - a. Read, memorize, and quote verses that either remind you of how God feels about that wrong attitude or that remind you of the right attitude to replace it with.

Psalm 119:11 →

- b. Avoid people or activities that constantly tempt you to have the wrong attitudes

1 Thessalonians 5:22 →



D. Teach About the Source of Godly Attitudes

At salvation, a person receives a new nature which gives new attitudes and a new source of spiritual power to get victory over the old sin nature.

✓2 Corinthians 5:17 →

✓Galatians 5:16-18 →

✓Romans 6:16 →

E. The Holy Spirit lives in each Believer to constantly produce the godly attitudes that should control his actions and responses. These are described as the fruit of the Spirit because they come from the Holy Spirit Himself.

Galatians 5:22-23 →

◆ **Love** is desiring God's best and being willing to give to meet the needs of the one I love (1 John 4:8-11)

Examples:

◆ **Joy** is an internal happiness or contentment based on my relationship with Jesus (John 15:11)

Examples:

◆ **Peace** is an inner calmness no matter what is going on around me because I know God is in control of all things (John 14:27)

Examples:

◆ **Longsuffering** means being patient or enduring trials that come from people or circumstances which are outside of my control, knowing that God will use them to build my Christian character (Romans 5:3-4)

Examples:

◆ **Gentleness** means a desire to treat others kindly (1 Timothy 2:24)

Examples:

◆ **Goodness** is a desire to do what is upright and a desire to treat others rightly even when it is not deserved (Ephesians 5:9)

Examples:

- ◆ **Faithfulness** is loyalty, trustworthiness, and a commitment to fulfill your duties (1 Corinthians 4:12)

Examples:

- ◆ **Meekness** (humility) is recognizing that God and others are responsible for my abilities, talents, and accomplishments (1 Peter 5:5-6)

Examples:

- ◆ **Self-control** is the ability to control the old sinful attitudes and actions, and to do the right things even without being told (2 Peter 1:5-6)

Examples:

- ◆ **Thankfulness** is expressing appreciation to God and others for what they have done for me (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Examples:

- ◆ **Forgiveness** is an attitude that is willing to not hold a grudge against someone who wronged me (Luke 6:37)

Examples:

- ◆ **Contentment** is an attitude that is satisfied with whatever God has given; not envious or greedy for more, bigger, or nicer things (Heb. 13:5a).

Examples:

F. Teach the Importance of Having Godly Attitudes

- ◆ The attitudes that the person has inside his heart will influence his words and behavior.

Proverbs 23:7 →

Matthew 15:19 →

G. Developing Godly Attitudes

1. Daily ask for the Holy Spirit to build these attitudes in you (they are “fruit” from the Holy Spirit Himself).

Galatians 5:22-23 →

2. Pray to be alert to opportunities to show these attitudes in the situations you encounter each day:

- ✓“Lord, help me to show (joy, love, etc.) to my teachers and classmates.”
- ✓“Lord, help me to have self-control over any wrong attitudes I am tempted to have today or over any temptations.”
- ✓“Dear Jesus, help me to experience your peace as I face whatever comes my way today.”

3. Regularly “renew your mind” (Rom. 12:2) with God’s Truth, to use as a filter of what to think on (Phi. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5).



*True
Honorable . . . Right
Pure
Lovely . . . of good repute
Excellence
Worthy of praise*

IV. Activity Ideas to Reinforce Godly Attitudes

Identify the Attitude Bible Drill

1. Directions for the game
 - a. Find the verse the teacher gave and stand
 - b. When recognized by the teacher, read the verse
 - c. Identify the attitude in the verse
 - d. Tell whether it is a good attitude or a bad attitude
2. Verses to use

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| ☉ Proverbs 27:4 | ☉ 1 Timothy 3:8 |
| ☉ 1 Peter 5:5 | ☉ 2 Timothy 2:24 |
| ☉ Matthew 22:37,39 | ☉ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 |
| ☉ 1 Kings 22:8 | ☉ Matthew 9:36 |
| ☉ Proverbs 15:13 | ☉ Hebrews 12:15 |
| ☉ Ephesians 4:32 | |

Hunting Your Right Attitude Game

1. Print positive and negative attitudes on 3 x 5 cards.

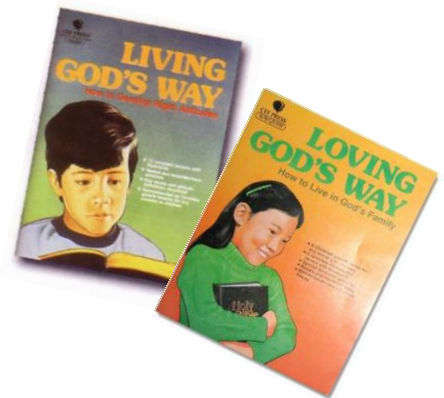
Note: For young children, put all negative attitudes on one color and all positive attitudes on another color.

2. At game time, distribute the cards to the children.
3. When the teacher says go, children may look for the person with the attitude card that is the opposite of the attitude card he has.
4. When the children think they have matched, they should go to the teacher who will challenge them to think of ways they can choose to display that proper attitude this week.
5. Provide an opportunity in class next week for them to share how God helped them have right attitudes.

V. Ways to Teach Godly Attitudes

A. Through Specific Bible Lessons

1. Living God's Way (CEF Press)
2. Loving God's Way (CEF Press)
3. Galatians 5:16-26
4. Joseph Forgives His Brothers
- 5.



B. Through Special Lessons

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Through Songs 🎵

1. The Fruit of the Spirit
2. Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart
- 3.
- 4.

D. Through Making a Counseling Tool about Stewardship

1. This tool can be made small enough to use with believing children and youth in one-on-one discipling situations.
2. This tool can be made large enough to use it before the entire class.