

# Teaching the Believing Child About Godly Attitudes



## I. The Definition of Godly Attitudes

Attitudes are beliefs or ways of thinking and feeling by which we evaluate people, places, things, or events 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 a person's actions or mannerisms.

Christ-like attitudes are internal beliefs or ways of feeling and thinking about the people, places, things, and happenings that are in agreement with the way the Bible says a Christian should think and feel. It is important for all believing children to develop godly attitudes because these attitudes will eventually determine their outward actions.

Godly attitudes include 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, friendliness, and acceptance.

Ungodly attitudes in the believing child must be confronted, confessed, and forsaken before they become life-long habits.

## II. Key Verses on Godly Attitudes



### A. Galatians 5:22-23a

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



### B. Philippians 2:5

*"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."*



### C. 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."*



### D. Proverbs 23:7

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



E. *Proverbs 4:23*

*"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."*



F. *Jeremiah 17:9*

*"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it."*



G. *Matthew 15:19*

*"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."*



H. *1 Thessalonians 5:16,18*

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

### III. Important Teaching on Godly Attitudes

#### A. Teach About the Importance of Displaying Godly Attitudes

- ◆ At salvation the child receives a new nature that gives new attitudes (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- ◆ The Holy Spirit lives in each believing child to produce the godly attitudes that are described as the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- ◆ The attitudes that the child has inside his heart will influence his words and behavior (Proverbs 23:7).

#### B. Teach About Ungodly Attitudes

Teach that the ungodly attitudes he inherited from his sinful nature at birth are sinful and must be confessed and forsaken when he senses their presence.

- ◆ **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**ing 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 (1 John 2:16-17)
- ◆ **Selfishness** is only thinking of me and what I want, or not sharing with others (2 Timothy 3:2)
- ◆ **Hating** something or someone; wanting something bad to happen to them (1 John 2:11)



### C. Teach About the Godly Attitudes that Come from my New Nature



- ◆ **Love** is desiring God's best and being willing to give in order to meet the needs of the one I love (1 John 4:8-11)
- ◆ **Joy** is an internal happiness or contentment based on my relationship with Jesus (John 15:11)
- ◆ **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)
- ◆ **Longsuffering** means being patient or enduring trials that come from people or circumstances that are outside of my control, knowing that God will use them to build my Christian character (Romans 5:3-4)
- ◆ **Gentleness** means a desire to treat others kindly (1 Timothy 2:24)
- ◆ **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)
- ◆ **Faithfulness** is loyalty, trustworthiness, and a commitment to fulfill your duties (1 Corinthians 4:12)
- ◆ **Meekness** (humility) is recognizing that God and others are responsible for my abilities, talents, and accomplishments (1 Peter 5:5-6)
- ◆ **Self-control** is the ability to control the old sinful attitudes and actions (2 Peter 1:5-6)
- ◆ **Thankfulness** is expressing appreciation to God and others for what they have done for me (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- ◆ **Forgiveness** is an attitude that is willing to not hold a grudge against someone who wronged me (Luke 6:37)



### D. Teach Steps in Developing Godly Attitudes

1. Ask God to make you aware of any wrong attitude (Psalm 139:23-24)
2. Recognize the presence of any wrong attitude and confess it as sin (1 John 1:9)



3. Ask God to give you victory over wrong attitudes that you continue to struggle with (Romans 6:12-14). Some wrong attitudes die hard.

\*Choose to reject that attitude when you sense its presence  
(2 Corinthians 10:5)

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 your heart against wrong attitudes
  - 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.
  - b. Avoid people or activities that constantly tempt you to have the wrong attitudes (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

#### IV. Ways to Teach Godly Attitudes

##### A. Through Specific Bible Lessons

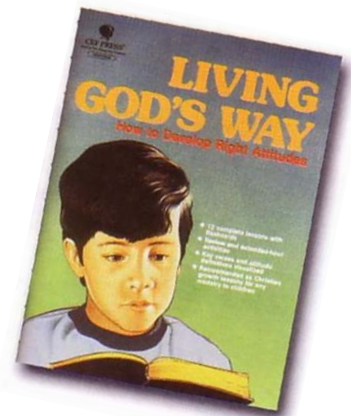
1. CEF series, "Living God's Way"
2. CEF series, "Loving God's Way"
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

##### B. Through Special Lessons

1. Fruit of the Spirit
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

##### C. Through Songs 🎵

1. Fruit of the Spirit
2. Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



#### D Through Making a Counseling Tool about Stewardship

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

#### V. Activity Ideas to Reinforce Godly Attitudes

##### *Identify the Attitude Bible Drill*

1. Directions for the game
  - a. Find the verse 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 (use others from this handout when playing it again):

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| ☉ Proverbs      | ☉ 1 Timothy 6:6        |
| ☉ Luke 15:8     | ☉ Ephesians 4:32       |
| ☉ James 3:16    | ☉ Psalm 31:24          |
| ☉ Hebrews 10:36 | ☉ Proverbs 3:5         |
| ☉ James 4:6     | ☉ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 |



##### *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 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 choose to have that proper attitude this week.
5. Provide an opportunity in class next week for them to share how God helped them have right attitudes.

