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approve, commend, ... make, stand (with)" (Strong's). The NAS says, "in Him all things hold together." In other words, were it not for our Lord, nothing would even exist! How dare we think we are self-sufficient in any way? How many times have we sang, "I Need Thee Every Hour"? Do we really mean that? Or, is our attitude toward Christ one of "don't call me, I'll call you"?

Some who had a self-sufficient attitude include the rich fool of **Luke 12**. Jesus, in speaking of him, showed that this man thought he had provided all of this for himself. Notice in **Luke 12:16-21**, that the personal pronoun "I" is used by him 6 times in this short account. He had not thought about God, nor thanked Him for the bounty. He was merely concerned for himself, and lost it all in a night!

The Christians James wrote to thought they were self-sufficient as well. James told them, "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil" (**Jas. 4:13-16**).

Their proud, arrogant boasting was evil in God's sight. They thought they were self-sufficient, could provide for their own, and did not need to include God at any point. They were wrong then, and we are wrong today if we think we do not need God. We do not know what may come tomorrow (**Prov. 27:1**). Therefore, we need to remember who holds tomorrow, and live for Him!

Some Have An Apathetic Attitude.

To show apathy is to not show interest or concern. Therefore, those who show apathy toward the Lord and His church show no concern or interest for the Lord and

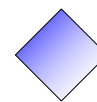
His church. This can do nothing but damage people spiritually. Yet, there are many today so caught up in worldly pursuits, that they have no interest, nor concern for the things that are most important.

There are many apathetic people mentioned in the Bible. Consider the fact that Paul had to remind those "that are rich in this world" that they had a responsibility to the Lord and His cause (**I Tim. 6:17-19**). If they were not careful, they would only show their interest in material pursuits, and no interest in the Lord. Another who was apathetic was Agrippa. When faced with the greatest decision one can make in this life, he refused, saying, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (**Acts 26:28**). He was very aware of the doctrine of Christ (**v.26**), but had no interest or concern in it, nor for his soul. In fact, there are many today who show that their interests lie in other things beside the gospel. When people show apathy toward the Lord and His church, it shows that we need to watch ourselves lest we also become apathetic (**I Cor. 10:12, 15:33**).

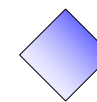
Conclusion

As always, we need to examine ourselves (**II Cor. 13:5**). Let us make sure we are not guilty of these wrong attitudes, for they will develop into wrong actions! In some, it is already apparent what attitude they have. Let us do our best to live by the Bible, to follow its precepts, and love the Author. If we are guilty of harboring any of the attitudes we have studied, then let us repent and turn from those things while we have the time to do so. May God help us all to have the right attitude, to live for Him, and look forward to Heaven when this life is over.

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



June 27, 2010

What Is Your Attitude Toward Sin?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

There is a trend to believe that the possibility of offending someone in teaching the Bible is to be avoided. In our society people are taught to get along with everybody. We don't want to hurt anybody's feelings. Brethren, we are to preach the word, not pamper the world (**2 Timothy 4:2**). We are to reprove, rebuke, not relax in sin, approve it, deny it, mock it, minimize it or exonerate it!

Brethren, there is an attitude, a stance, which has crept in the Lord's church; it's our attitude toward sin, the tolerating of sin. First, I want to say that the Lord desires that His church be pure. "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (**Ephesians 5:26-27**). Knowing we are to keep the church, a glorious church, pure, why do my brethren minimize sin? Let us stop treating sin lightly. Don't my brethren realize, when we treat sin lightly, we are treating the cross lightly!

I will say this, we will cease minimizing sin when we (1) call it what it is, (2) see what it is, (3) consider what it does, and (4) think where it ends. Instead of tolerating, minimizing sin, we are to reprove it (**Ephesians 5:11**). Tolerance of sin is condemned (**Revelation 2:20-21**). And toleration of sin leads to a love of sin, the love of sin leads to a practice of sin, and the practice of sin leads to spiritual death (**Romans 6:23**). The church is wounded when we fail to reprove and rebuke sin. A single sin which is permitted to remain in the body will destroy the whole body (**Revelation 2:1-5**). When we cover up sins in the church, we corrupt the morality and virtue of the church and destroy its efficacy to honor God or to save men. Sin must be exposed and purged out of the church. God cannot be honored by covering up evil in the church. To expose sin is to proclaim to the world that they seek truth, purity, holiness, and godlikeness.

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." – 2 Timothy 4:2

am talking about one brought under the power of any chemical substance, legal or illegal; I am talking about alcohol. I am talking about addiction! These things are addictive. Paul writes, "...but I will not be brought under the power of any" (**1 Corinthians 6:12 ASV**). One version reads, "but I will not be enslaved by anything" (**RSV**). The word of God teaches that the Christian is to be God-controlled. While the Christian is a new creature in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), he is also a servant. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof." "For sin shall not have dominion over you." "But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness" (**Romans 6:12, 14, 17-18**). The Scriptures boldly proclaim that man cannot serve two masters (**Matthew 6:24**). The Christian is to be under the power of divinity, first, last, and always. It is an undeniable principle in the Bible that the Christian, as a servant of God, is never to be brought under the power or control of anyone or anything.

When a Christian becomes addicted, enslaved to smoking, alcohol, or brought under the power of any chemical substance, legal or illegal, he is attempting to serve two masters and forfeits the servant-master relationship which exists between himself and God. The Christian, as he serves the eternal Master, must be free from ALL enslavement! The child of God is to be God -controlled (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**).

What am I talking about? I am talking about smoking; I

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Nicotine is the drug in tobacco that causes addiction; alcohol is a drug, an addictive drug; legal and illegal drugs are also addictive. Being controlled by these is in conflict with **1 Corinthians 6:12**. Also smoking, alcohol, legal and illegal drugs goes against the teaching of the Scriptures that teach your body is a temple, that you are to glorify God in your body (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**). Those who engage in these things use their bodies for carnal pleasures, and are in sin. Jesus Christ cannot live in the individual who is walking contrary to the principles set forth in His word. To be cleansed by the blood of Jesus the Christian must walk in the light as Jesus is in the light (**1 John 1:7**). Jesus tells us that we are: *"So let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven"* (**Matthew 5:16**). Question: Can a Christian's light shine when he disobeys God? Can a Christian's light shine when he lives to fulfill the lust of the flesh (**Romans 13:14**)? Can a Christian's light shine when he is intoxicated (**Galatians 5:21**)? Can a Christian's light shine when he is controlled, mastered, by a chemical substance (nicotine etc. ;) (**1 Corinthians 6:12**)? Can a Christian's light shine when he destroys, harms, the temple of the Holy Spirit which is the physical body (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**)? If a Christian's light is not shining he deprives God of glory, the world of godly influence, is this not sin?

Listen, I do want to make my point; I am talking about how the church ignores these things, or supports these things. What do I mean? We have many in the Lord's church, who are doing these sins, and we know it to be sin, instead of reproving and rebuking these members about their sin, we will ask them to be the song leader; we ask them to serve on the Lord's Table or lead prayers. We act like nothing is wrong! These things are sin, and abomination to God, *"He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to Jehovah"* (**Proverbs 17:15**). Do you think God is happy when we allow such a person to lead us in worship to God? Do think God is happy when we give money to these people so they can buy a pack of ciga-

rettes or some beer to support their sin? Do you think God is happy when members of the body of Christ go behind the church building and practice sin (smoking)? Maybe it's alright to commit fornication, use profanity, or drink alcohol as long as it's behind the church building?

Oh, it's just a little sin! A tiny spark can cause a great forest fire. A little member in our body, the tongue, can send us to hell (**James 3**). Remember that it was a little fruit in Eve's case, a little touch in Uzzah's case, a little bundle of sticks in the Israelite's case. Any sin, whether we classified it big or little, will keep a man out of heaven (**Revelation 21:27**). One sin unrepented of is enough to render one a sinner, and cause him to be lost (**James 2:10**). There is no little sin, because there is no little God to sin against. Sin is sin! But we allow such a person to lead the congregation in worship because we feel sorry for him, or we don't want to make him mad and run him off, these things ought not to be brethren! Smoking, alcoholic beverage and drugs has many defenders but no defense.

Brethren, these things (smoking, alcohol, misusing of legal or illegal drugs) are sin! Would we allow a man living in adultery or who steals lead the congregation in worship? Then why would we allow a person who smokes, uses alcohol, or one brought under the power of any chemical substance, to lead us in worship? Is not a sin a sin? If a congregation permits such individuals to remain unchastened within its fellowship, allows such a person to lead in worship, it thereby becomes a partaker of their sin and will also drift out of favor of the Lord (**Revelation 2**). Sin must be exposed and purged out of the church or the church becomes corrupt and a synagogue of Satan instead of the church of Christ. We need to hate every false way (**Psalms 119:140**). To ignore or tolerate wrong doing among its members is not love just because you felt sorry for that person. The question is how much do you love God, His Word, the church, your brothers and sisters? *"We ought to obey God rather than man"* (**Acts 5:29**). Let us pray that God will, *"grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word"* (**Acts 4:29**). ♦

"Attitudes We Need To Avoid"

By Jarrod Jacobs

There are some people who are guilty of wrong attitudes, which result in wrong actions. We are not immune to such wrong dispositions. The Bible tells us of some who had wrong attitudes, and as a result, sinned. Let us consider the following.

Some Have A Proud Attitude.

Perhaps pride is one of the worst attitudes. It has raised its ugly head on many occasions. Pride is a dangerous attitude we are warned about on many occasions in the Bible. The Holy Spirit, through Solomon, warned of pride many times in the book of **Proverbs**. *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate"* (**8:13**). *"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom"* (**11:2**). *"In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride..."* (**14:3**). *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall"* (**16:18**). *"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit"* (**29:23**).

We see several in the Bible who displayed pride. Consider Diotrophes who loved *"to have the preeminence"* (**III Jn. 9**). Because of his pride, he *"receiveth us not."* He not only used malicious words against John and others, but did not receive brethren, and *"forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."* This man was so lifted up with pride, that he was literally out of control. He would allow nothing and no one to question his preeminence he had in that local church. Friends, this is as wrong as it can be!

Other examples of pride include King Nebuchadnezzar, who lost his kingdom for a time because he thought he was a "self-made man." This was wrong. (**Dan. 4:30-37, 5:20**). Ultimately, his grandson Belshazzar lost the kingdom forever because of his pride (**Dan. 5:22-31**). **Hosea 5:5-7** records that even God's people Israel were guilty of pride. As a result, God withdrew Himself from them.

God has no part nor lot with a proud man. One with pride cannot be God's child. He uses those who are humble (**I Pet. 5:5-6**). Friends, do you have a proud attitude? If so, you need to change, for God hates that attitude (**Prov. 6:16-17**).

Some Have A Covetous Attitude.

To covet is to have *"avarice, i.e. (by impl.) fraudulency, extortion ... greediness"* (Strong's). In fact, Paul equates covetousness with idolatry in **Colossians 3:5**. When one puts all his energy in obtaining/acquiring a thing, he is covetous. Some may be covetous toward money (**I Tim. 6:10**), toward a person (**Ex. 20:17**), toward their own interests (**Eph. 4:19-20**), toward recreation (**I Tim. 4:8**), etc. Anything that you allow to come between you and God becomes your idol. It is that for which you covet and devote yourself. If we are going to be God's faithful children, we must not be covetous.

Some examples of covetousness in the Bible include Achan who coveted after *"a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight"* and caused the Israelites to lose the battle against the people of Ai (**Josh. 7:5, 18-21**). The remedy was that he was to die, as well as his family, in order for the Israelites to be in good standing with God (**Josh. 7:23-26**).

We might also consider the covetousness mentioned in **I Timothy 6:10**. *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* Notice that those who would covet after money, or wealth err from the faith. The NKJ says, *"some have strayed from the faith in their greediness."* The NAS says, *"some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith."* It is a dangerous matter indeed when we think of those who covet after money or wealth. When people put this first in their lives, they are turning away from God and from His soul-saving word!

Some Have A Self-Sufficient Attitude.

Some, especially in this country, have the attitude that they can do it all by themselves. Some never admit their need for God, but think that all things depend upon them and their efforts. We need to realize that we are not self-sufficient, but are helpless. We could do nothing if it were not for God. We would not be here if it were not for God. **Colossians 1:17** teaches that Christ *"is before all things, and by him all things consist."* Consist means *"to set together, i.e. (by impl.) to introduce (favorably), or (fig.) to exhibit; intrans. to stand near, or (fig.) to constitute:--*