

# The Importance of Attitude

## By Casey Head

Let's talk for just a moment about the average week of *too many Christians*: Go to church on Sunday morning. Don't participate in the Bible class, because, after all, you're not prepared, and to be honest, you don't really care that much. During the worship assembly, you do the things that you're supposed to do, but really, you're thinking more about what you're doing after services. Services are over, so you go out to eat with certain other Christians, but you really don't talk about spiritual things. The topics that come up are sports, politics, entertainment...and there's usually a little gossip tossed into the mix. Then you go back to church Sunday night, but again, you're there because you feel that you have to be, not because you want to be. Monday arrives and you begin your five-day workweek. You don't talk to others about the gospel. You don't read your Bible. You rarely pray to God. In fact, you may hardly even think about Jesus or heaven. In the evening, you watch TV, interact with your family to some extent, watch TV, possibly do some housework, watch some more TV, and then you go to bed. The rest of the week is basically the same. You yell at the people that cut you off in traffic. You're consumed with bitterness, anger, envy and greed. All too often, you find yourself "testing the waters" and getting as close to sin as you can without "going too far." And in the midst of it all, there is that one hour of piety during the Wednesday night Bible class (that you didn't prepare for and really don't care about).

The above paragraph certainly doesn't describe all Christians, or even most Christians, but it does describe too many Christians in today's society. They go to church on Sunday and Wednesday, and they may be decent folks, but their attitude is wrong and their heart just isn't in the right place. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are going to have to wake up! Yes, God expects us to assemble with the church (Heb. 10:24-25), but there is much more to Christianity than just that. God expects us to be passionate about Him and His truth. We are to love God with all of our heart, soul and mind (Mt. 22:37-40) and we are to devote ourselves fully to the Lord (Mt. 16:24-26). Paul says in Romans 12:1-2 that to be a "living sacrifice" is our "*reasonable service*," yet many Christians today act as if it is unreasonable to be overly-devoted to God.

Psalm 51:16-17 say, "For Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: Thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." David recognized that God wasn't just after the outward acts of service; He was really more concerned with the heart and attitude of His people, and He still is today. Yes, it is important that we obey the commands that God has given us. In fact, we must if we want to be saved (Heb. 5:9). But let us not forget that the outward acts of service mean nothing unless our heart is there as well.

I wonder how many Christians have even read about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. Paul says that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." There are too many "Christians" that lack these things. Instead of gentleness, there is harshness. Instead of longsuffering, there is impatience. Instead of temperance, there is volatility. How can we call ourselves Christians when we lack the fruit of the Spirit, which is the very essence of the gospel of Christ.

In closing, do NOT think that it's good enough to be a good, church-going Christian. If you want to go to heaven, you must give your whole life to God. You must be crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). Are you the Christian that you need to be? Do you have the right attitude? Does your life bear the fruit of the Spirit? Or are you just going through the motions? Revelation 3:15-16 says, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth."