

The Old Paths

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“Wrong Attitudes”

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There are people in this world who are guilty of wrong attitudes, which result in wrong actions. Christians, of course, are not immune. In fact, God’s people from the beginning have had to contend with wrong attitudes and wrong actions from others, as well as the temptation to have these wrong attitudes, themselves. 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 we face. It has raised its ugly head on many occasions, starting very early in the history of man. God warns us about the dangerous attitude of pride on many occasions in the Bible.

The Holy Spirit, through Solomon, warned of pride in the book of Proverbs. This book says, *“The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate”* (8:13). *“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom”* (11:2). *“By the mouth of a fool comes a rod for his back...”* (14:3). *“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”* (16:18). *“One’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor”* (29:23).

We see several people in the

Bible who displayed pride. Consider Diotrefes who loved *“to put himself first”* (III Jn. 9). Because of his pride, he *“does not acknowledge our authority.”* He not only used malicious words against John and other apostles, but did not receive brethren, and *“stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.”* This man was so lifted up with pride, that he was literally out of control. He would allow 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). Unfortunately, this man did not learn from the mistakes of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 5:22-23). 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 or lot with a proud man. One with pride cannot be His child. God uses those who are humble (I Pet. 5:5-6). Friend, do you have a proud attitude? If so, you need to repent. 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). When one

places a person or thing before God in terms of importance in his life, then this person is covetous. In Colossians 3:5, we note that God equates covetousness with idolatry itself. Thus, idolatry (covetousness) is alive and well today. 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 devout yourself. Friends, 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 beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels”* 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 a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”* The NKJ says that those who would covet after money, or wealth, have “strayed from the faith in their greediness.” It is a dangerous matter indeed when we consider those who covet. When people put have covetousness 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 (Jn. 15:5). We would not be here if it were not for God. Colossians 1:17 teaches that Christ *“is before all things, and 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 the song, *“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 everything for himself. Notice in Luke 12:16-21, that the personal pronoun *“I”* is used by him 6 times in this short account. He never 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, *“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’ — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting 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 show little or no interest or concern in a person or thing. 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, or 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 show 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, telling Paul, *“Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian”* (Acts 26:28). Agrippa

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 besides the gospel. When we see people around us show apathy toward the Lord and His church, may that stand as a warning 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 as we study this, and any other Bible subject (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 (Heb. 3:7-8). May God help us all to have the right attitude, to live for Him, and look forward to Heaven when this life is over.

Point To Ponder

*“Most people know HOW to be silent.
Few know WHEN!”*
(Study: Prov. 10:19, 13:3, 17:28, 21:23)

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