

Changed Attitudes

As we mature, how does our perception of parental correction change?

Hebrews 12:7-11

In our Christian walk, God interacts with us as a loving parent.

How will I react when God chastens me?

Our Father is interested in attitudes AND actions

Matthew 23:23-28

This is not a discourse against outward discipleship (actions); “These you ought to have done”. Rather it’s a discourse against ignored inward discipleship (attitudes); “without leaving the others undone”.

Whenever you and I focus on actions (outward things) and then excuse wrong attitudes (inward things) we miss out on weightier matters and also give others a bad impression of Christianity. Jesus wants us to pay attention to both attitudes and actions.

Changed Attitudes: (Inward landmarks)

What are the elements of Christianity that signify progress toward righteousness and holiness in my life?

How do these compare to sinful humanity and our society today?

Matthew 6:25, 32-34

1 John 2:16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Galatians 5:19-23

Ephesians 4:31-32

Colossians 3:5-15

As the righteousness of God works in my life, and the pull of His holiness directs my discipleship, these verses provide some of the attitude landmarks that signify growth.

Put-off: worry (food/drink/clothing/tomorrow), hatred, jealousy, selfish ambition, envy, bitterness, anger, evil desire, covetousness, lust of flesh/eyes, pride

Put-on: seek first the Kingdom of God, love, joy, peace, kindness, self-control, patience, tenderhearted (compassionate), goodness, mercy, humility, meekness, faith & justice

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Attitude Adjustments

The lesson of the Pharisees is that humans have the capacity to ignore our attitudes, our inward motivations.

Then how will I protect myself from that human frailty? Attitudes are fairly tough to measure or critique. Therefore:

- Who/what evaluates my ambitions?
- Who/what assesses my desires?
- Who/what measures the love, joy & peace in my life?
- Who/what determines my grasp of faith, mercy & justice?

How will I keep my inward holiness exposed to the Lord's chastening?

God calls us to "be holy as He is holy". Discipleship, this process of His righteousness being revealed in our humanity, affects our attitudes.

In order to change us on the inside, He sometimes appeals to our desire for better things, but at other times He chastens us toward better things. Sometimes He pulls us, sometimes He pushes us. True disciples respond to both as we willingly pursue His Holiness.