

## Attitude Toward Christ Matthew 22:41-46

The right attitude is very important for success in any line of endeavor.

When we come to worship Christ in spirit and in truth and our attitude is not what it should be, we are worshipping in vain.

When we arise on Lord's day morning, that is the time for us to get into the proper attitude for worship that day.

Consider five types of attitudes, look within yourselves and see if the attitude you find needs attention.

You only get out of a worship what you put into it.

The right type of attitude determines what we put into the worship service.

### Attitude Towards Christ

Jesus asked this question of the Pharisees. **Matthew 22:41-46**

Jesus Christ was either the Son of God or the son of a (mortal) man only!

He could not be both! If He was God's Son, he was born of a virgin. If He was not born of a virgin, he was not the Son of God. He was not the Savior of mankind; He was a liar and an imposter.

If He was God's Son, he was anointed and the Christ

**Acts 2:33** *Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.*

**Acts 2:36** *Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."*

If anointed, then He is King

**1Timothy 6:13-15** *I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,*

**Revelation 17:14** *These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."*

If Christ, then He is Savior

**Matthew 1:21** *She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

**Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

If He is the "Son of God" He is deity and not just divine. (God, not just of God.)

What about you? "What do you think about the Christ?"

### Attitude Towards the Authority of Christ

Jesus declared He has all authority

**Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

If we respect his authority, we must accept His Word

**John 12:48** *He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.*

**John 14:23** *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.*

Jesus spoke highly of the faith of the Centurion who said in

**Matthew 8:8** *But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.*

The Centurion respected the word of Jesus

He believed that with the spoken word of Christ his servant would be healed. This is the attitude we should have this is true faith in the authority of Jesus Christ!

If we believe His word, then we must respect authority of inspired writings

**John 13:20** Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

**Matthew 28:19-20** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Death and destruction has come upon men because they refused to hear and respect the word of God.

Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Cain in his banishment to the land of Nod. Nadab and Abihu in the unacceptable fire. Israel in their disobedience.

The Lord's church in times past and I fear present day and those to come.

Rejecting part of Truth rejects all of Truth and rejects Christ's authority

**John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

**1Thessalonians 2:13** For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

What about you? "What do you think of the Word?"

### **Attitude Towards Those Who Proclaim Truth and Expose Error?**

Herodias (adulteress wife of Herod) had John the Baptist killed ...

What was his crime? He exposed her error & preached the truth

**Mark 6:18** For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

Some preachers preach because they love the praise of man!

**John 12:42-43** Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

Are the same who refuse to obey the truth and will take many to hell with them

**John 12:48** He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

Demas forsook Paul because of the world **2Timothy 4:10**

Peter and John put into prison for preaching the Truth **Acts 3**

Paul faced stoning at Lystra mobs of Ephesus and Jerusalem. Yet he preached the word of God.

There are some in the church today who try to apologize

For the type of preaching Paul did ... They want to be politically correct!

Their messages are reconciliation of beliefs.

Fellowship with unbelievers of any faith!

Their message is: "We all serve the same God just in different ways!"

It is not acceptable to society to expose scriptural error in preaching.

They whimper that "We might further separate ourselves from them."

Unfortunately, this is the attitude of some in our churches today!!!!

Paul withstood Peter face to face because of Peter's guilt in refusing to eat with Gentiles. **Galatians 2:11-14**

What is your attitude towards those who preach the truth and expose error? Support or Offensive?

This is a very important question Think about it before you answer.

### **How Is Your Attitude Towards False Doctrine?**

Some believe/practice that it is all right to believe a false doctrine

Teach we are all striving for the same place different ways to get there.

If it is alright for one, it is alright for 2, for 10, for 200, the world!

There are still others with the idea

“Preach the truth leave the other fellow and his false doctrine alone.”

“It is not kind to expose error in teaching it is not politically correct!”

“Don’t bother them.” “You will cause them to think wrongly of us!”

If Christ had followed this course He would have continued to be obscure

And of no consequence in the world!

Had pioneer preachers followed this course the church would be unknown today!

**2Timothy 2:15** *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

**2Timothy 4:2** *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

We have only one doctrine to preach that is the doctrine of Jesus Christ

**2John 9** *Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.*

We are to rebuke all other doctrines as false

**Romans 16:17-18** *Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.*

Jesus and the apostles exposed false doctrines.

**Matthew 15:9** *‘But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’”*

**Matthew 23** is filled with warnings of false doctrines by Jesus himself.

The book of **1John** was written by the “Disciple of Love.”

Rare is the page that he does not call someone a liar! We are in good company by upholding the truth of the gospels! Exposing error and false teachers.

Jesus is portrayed is the N. T. as “the Lamb of God” **John 1:29**

In respect to His person Jesus was “as a lamb before its shearer” **Acts 8:32**

In **Revelation 5:5** Jesus is portrayed as a “Lion that is from the tribe of Judah”

In respect of His Doctrine He truly was a “lion that is from the tribe of Judah”

Are you willing and able to stand up against Satan’s messengers?

**Ephesians 6:11** *Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*

**Ephesians 6:13** *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*

## **What Is Your Attitude Towards Members of the Church?**

Even with their sinfulness and short comings Paul considered them “beloved.”

**1Corinthians 15:58** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*

**Philippians 4:1** *Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.*

What about you? how is your attitude about brethren here?

To John (the beloved) Christians were “little children”

**1John 2:1** *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;*

**1John 2:28** *Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.*

**1John 3:7** *Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;*

**1John 5:21** *Little children, guard yourselves from idols.*

Everyone who is a member of the Lord's church are our brethren.

Because they too are member of His church

I am to love them in spite of our different backgrounds, races, languages, congregations, whatever they do to me and forgive them! My own desires, what we think about them

We are all members of the family of God and need to support one another

If we cannot get along here in this life how are we going to make it in eternity?

Do you show that love and concern by visiting and calling your brethren regularly? Do you encourage the weak and the strong?

### **Conclusion**

What about your attitude towards your brethren?

What about your attitude towards this church?

Are attitudes important? "YES"

Your attitude will determine your character here on this earth.

Your attitude will determine where you will spend eternity.

Attitudes are important because they are a mirror to our attitude about Christ.

***Philippians 2:5-11***

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