

## Attitudes Hindering Obedience

Our attitude reflects who we are. We leave an impression on many by our attitude. In **Matthew 5:14-16** Jesus speaks about the positive attitudes and the impression that leaves. We are the light of the world speaking of Christians. People need to know about God. How can you do this? By your attitude you shed the greatest influence of all on people. People will know about God whether your desire is for such things pertaining to the kingdom (**Matthew 6:33**).

However, in thinking about this we must be mindful of our attitude that can also hinder our obedience. In having things attitudes hinder our obedience we put our soul in complete jeopardy. We will not be ready to face God (**Luke 21:34**). Are we concerned about other things in life that the things pertaining to God? Is our attitude causing the problem?

There are many that we can discuss on this matter. However, I want to consider three for the time being things that we face attitudes we encounter and ways to improve and overcome these obstacles that come in our way.

### Arrogance

We as individuals need to be careful. We are to be confident in knowing that obedience to God has great reward (**Hebrews 10:35**). If we are found faithful to God, we will be rewarded in the end. However, we need to decipher the difference between confidence and arrogance. We can have great confidence, but arrogance causes us to be more puffed in ourselves (**Proverbs 16:18**). It goes before destruction. It will corrupt us and it is an attitude that hinders our obedience.

Sadly, as we look in the New Testament, we have cases where people have had arrogance and hindered their obedience. In **Acts 17:22-34** we have account of the Athenians. These were educated men seeking after physical wisdom. They had alters made out and one was even to the Unknown God. Paul goes on to address who this was. This is the God of all. This is the God who made the worlds. This is the God who commands and expects obedience. This is the God who offers eternal life! What was their response to this matter? Well, we will hear from you again on the matter. They had arrogance that they had all the time in the world. Their pride caused them to miss the hope of eternal life. Be cautious not to have this attitude.

Again, in **James 4:13-17** we have another case where James is warning those of the day that is coming. Many are in a position where they believe they have tomorrow. To believe this is arrogance! We need to have more of an attitude of humility as portrayed in **James 4:7-10**. That attitude of putting God first or "as the Lord wills". We do not need to be arrogant. Let us put it aside and practice humility and reflect that on the world of seeking God through that instead!

### Loveless

We need a heart of love (**Mark 12:30-31**). Without love we cannot be pleasing to God. We need to show love not only to God but also love to our neighbor. To be loveless is not a way of God and creates an attitude hindering obedience.

In **Revelation 2:1-7** we have record of a problem of a church suffering from a lack of love. Their desire in Ephesus was not for God first. They left their first love. This attitude reflected that problem.

They were not pleasing and acceptable to God. What did they need to do? They need to repent and turn back to their first love. Again, welcoming love for God and the love toward the neighbor. With this being rekindled we instead encourage love and begin that life and way of understanding toward pleasing God!

### **Unbelief in your heart**

Unless we believe in Jesus Christ, we cannot be saved (**John 8:24**). When we have unbelief in our heart it creates a void. It creates an attitude of disobedience. We are also without the proper knowledge and without God (**II John 9**).

We in fact need to believe (**Hebrews 11:6**). We must come to understanding of belief in our Almighty God. If not, we cannot be pleasing to God. We will not be rewarded in the end. We will be lost and entangled without hope. Again, creating an attitude hindering obedience.

Repent and believe in the gospel (**Mark 1:15**)! This was the message of Jesus Christ. If we are creating an attitude hindering obedience, we need to try and recognize it and overcome it. How is this done by seeking God (**I Corinthians 10:13**). We face these obstacles and we can overcome them. WE need to put ourselves second and put God first in our life and seek to please God always!

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