

Day 18

How's Your Attitude?

Philippians 2:1-11

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 2:5*

Jill complained about her husband to her friend Susan: “He was a bear when he got up this morning! What an attitude to start the day.”

Attitudes are funny things. They're great when we're feeling good; bad when we're feeling down. Our attitude influences how we live and treat others. This is not to say we should just “Don't worry, be happy,” as a popular song once said. Instead, we look to the Bible to see what mindset we should seek.

Paul instructs that our attitude should reflect Christ's. He explains that Jesus' attitude led him to humble himself and be a servant—giving up his very life so that others might have his righteousness. Now that is a powerful attitude to emulate!

Whenever we face challenges in life, it is wise to first check our attitude. Are we seeking our own good or are we seeking the good of others? Are we looking at how bad we have it or are we looking at how we can make life better for others?

As Jesus' crucifixion drew near, his attitude of love and service led him to willingly face his Father's wrath for the sins of the world. His mindset led him to “give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Because Jesus loved you enough to lay down his life for you, you get to have an attitude of service and love for others.

*Thank you, Jesus, for having an attitude of love, service, and sacrifice.
Because you forgive me, strengthen me in my own attitude that I might serve
you and others with the same kind of love you have shown me. Amen.*

*Adapted from Forgiven to Forgive - 6 Weeks of Daily Devotions
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Write or type your answers. Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. Considering your strained relationship, how has your own attitude made the situation worse?
2. How can you serve others in this conflict?
 - a. God
 - b. Your opponent
 - c. Others who may be affected directly by this conflict
 - d. Others who are observing your responses to this conflict
3. Write a prayer thanking Jesus for His servant attitude toward you, and that the Holy Spirit will give you an attitude of love, service, and sacrifice toward those you listed above.