

Change Your Attitude!

July 1st & 2nd, 2017

Philippians 2:14

“Do all things without grumbling or questioning”

“Have this mind [attitude] among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,” Philippians 2:5

- An attitude is our disposition toward circumstances in our lives.

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our attitudes.”¹ — Charles R. Swindoll

“Do all things...”

- ❖ This phrase incorporates all of our daily choices, decisions, reactions, responses, and actions!

- ❖ Jesus’ attitude in uncomfortable life situations sets the example for us.

- 1 Peter 2:18-24

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, ...” Philippians 1:27

“...without grumbling...”

Grumbling is to murmur [in a low voice] with discontent – to exhibit displeasure while complaining about one’s lot in life – to blame or fault find. ^{2 & 3}

- ❖ A warning concerning a negative attitude...

“We must not put Christ to the test, ... nor grumble, ...” 1 Corinthians 10:10

“...or questioning...”

Questioning: also translated “reasoning”, inward questioning; also “disputing”³

- ❖ Beware of trusting human reasoning to interpret God’s direction

“And [Jesus’ disciples] began discussing it among themselves, ...” Matthew 16:7

“Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves],” Philippians 2:14 (AMPC) ⁴

Biblical examples of God working His will through our lives as we obey His Word with a right attitude!

- ❖ Abraham was sent to Canaan, the promised land
 - Genesis 12-16
 - ⇒ God's Word at times seems illogical!
- ❖ Moses was sent to Egypt to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian slavery
 - Exodus 3-17
 - ⇒ As God leads our lives into His perfect will for us, there is always ample opportunity to grumble and complain along the way!
- ❖ Joshua was sent to conquer Canaan
 - Joshua 1-24
 - ⇒ Beware of questioning God's ways, direction in His Word, or His timing! God's Word seems hard and impossible at times.
- ❖ Nehemiah was sent to build a wall around Jerusalem
 - Nehemiah 3-4
 - ⇒ Beware of discouragement and complaining when the going gets rough!
- ❖ Paul was sent to preach the Gospel in Macedonia
 - Acts 16
 - ⇒ Paul's attitude of trusting in the wisdom and sovereignty of God's ways produced an unshakable peace and joy in his life!

We cannot change things that are out of our control in this life –
but we can change our attitude!

Endnotes:

¹ "Charles R. Swindoll > Quotes." *Goodreads.com*. © 2017 Goodreads, Inc. Web. <https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/5139.Charles_R_Swindoll>.

- ² Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.
- ³ Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.
- ⁴ Scripture quotation taken from the Amplified® Bible (AMPC), Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org
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