

Attitudes Paul Exemplified

I. Introduction

A. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to write about half of the New Testament. In these writings, Paul was often guided to include personal comments that illustrate and exemplify attitudes God wants us to imitate. **1 Corinthians 11:1**

II. Selflessness

A. For instance, in the leadup to one of his “be imitators of me” exhortations, Paul exemplified the attitude of *selflessness*. Paul demonstrated that he was not just thinking of himself, but had a genuine concern for others. This led him to forsake even his own “liberties” at times in order to be the best possible influence on others. This selfless attitude is one to follow. **1 Corinthians 8:13; 10:23-24; 10:33**

III. Repentant Heart

A. Such selfless loyalty to Christ and his followers is perhaps even more striking when we consider that Paul at one time zealously sought to destroy Christianity. Paul’s willingness to change in any way necessary to please God exemplifies the repentant heart we all must have. **Acts 9:6 (22:10); Galatians 1:23**

B. Moreover, upon repenting, Paul exemplified the “forward-looking” focus we must have. **Philippians 3:13-14**

IV. Commitment

A. The willingness Paul had to do whatever was necessary to please God demonstrates the depth of his commitment to the Lord. Upon his conversion, Paul’s life was ruled by Christ. **Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:9**

B. The depth and sincerity of Paul’s commitment was proven through various circumstances in which pleasing God was far from the comfortable, easy thing to do. **Acts 21:13**

V. Unashamed Devotion

A. Paul’s commitment to doing right led to many persecutions. In the midst of these persecutions, Paul exemplified the steadfast attitude we should have, and was unashamed of the Lord. **2 Timothy 1:8, 12**

VI. Confident Trust

A. Paul’s unashamed devotion to the Lord was aided by trusting God. He exemplified the need we have to be persuaded that all the Lord has told us is true. **2 Timothy 1:12; Hymns for Worship, Song 350**

B. Though we have not had the miraculous encounters with the Lord that Paul did, we can still unwaveringly trust God. **John 20:29-31; Hymns for Worship, Song 167**

VII. View of the Unseen

A. Though Paul was allowed to see some things we are not, he did not see the fulfillment of all of God’s promises. Yet, he was persuaded of their truth. This required him to walk by faith, rather than by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:7**

B. More generally, Paul, throughout his ministry, focused on eternal things rather than temporal things. By faith, Paul (spiritually) saw the (physically) unseen. Such is an example for us. **2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

VIII. Contentment

A. Paul’s “seeing the unseen” helped him learn contentment with his lot in life. Like Paul, we must learn to be content as long as we are right with God. In other words, we must learn to find contentment in God rather than basing contentment on temporal circumstances. **Philippians 4:11-13**