

Right Attitudes, Right Actions

I. Introduction

- A. Scripture teaches the need for not only faithfully serving God outwardly, but also doing so inwardly. **Mark 7:6**
- B. With most any action God demands of us, He also demands right attitudes. For instance...

II. Studying the Word

- A. Fervently studying the Word is a good thing. **1 Peter 2:2**
- B. As we study, though, it's imperative that we do so with the right attitude. The Word won't have the positive effects desired if our heart doesn't receive it right. **Matthew 13:19**
- C. Our motivation for study should not be to prove pre-conceived notions right, prove someone else wrong, show off knowledge of Scripture, or simply "check the box" without much thought about what's being studied. Instead, our motivation should be a sincere desire to see what God says is so, so that we may grow and change as needed to please Him. **Acts 17:11**

III. Praying to God

- A. Just as it's important for each of us to be devoted to study of God's Word, it's likewise important for each of us to be personally devoted to prayer. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
- B. Like study, though, prayer must be approached with the right attitude to be pleasing to God. **Luke 18:10-11, 14**
- C. For instance, we must not pray with wrong motives, as the Holy Spirit through James warns. **James 4:3**
- D. We must also avoid praying hypocritically for our prayers to be pleasing to God. Prayers must be genuine from the heart. **Matthew 6:5-7**

IV. Helping Others

- A. Another example of something we should be zealous for is helping others as we have ability and opportunity. **Galatians 6:10; 1 John 3:17**
- B. Such must be motivated by genuine love, though. While others may still benefit by deeds that are good outwardly, God is still displeased if such deeds are done with wrong motives. **1 Corinthians 13:3**

V. Opposing Evil

- A. A specific way we can help others is by leading others out of sin. While such demands speaking against evil, this does not excuse us from speaking with love and meekness. **Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:15**
- B. Jesus exemplifies the fact that while genuine love leads us to sometimes say things others may not want to hear, *love* must be the motivation. **Mark 10:21**

VI. Assembling with Saints

- A. Assembling with saints is yet another action that God requires. He does not just tell us to assemble with saints, though. God gives us reasons for assembling that indicate the kind of attitudes we should have. **Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 14:26; John 4:24**

VII. Worshipping through Song

- A. A specific part of our assembling together involves worshipping through singing. This part of our worship well-exemplifies the fact that while our actions in worship must be authorized by God, our attitude while worshipping is just as important. **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**