

THE IMPORTANCE OF A RIGHT

Attitude



The dictionary says an attitude is "a mental position assumed for a specific purpose."

Our attitudes always determine our actions. For example, a good attitude about Scriptural commands will result in Scriptural actions and a bad attitude about Scriptural commands will result in ignoring the commands of Scripture. Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

ATTITUDE ABOUT OURSELVES.

Our attitudes about ourselves affect every other relationship in our life. When the most attractive and popular Christian students were asked if they were satisfied with their basic appearance, over ninety-five percent replied that they were not! In further discussions with them, it was discovered that they had inwardly reasoned that if what they saw in the mirror was an example of God's love and creativity for them, they couldn't really trust Him with their future.

WHAT IS BEHIND THE ATTITUDE OF SELF-REJECTION?

As children, we begin to notice that we are different from people around us. We may get teased about our abilities or lack of abilities. If a child is academically slower than others, he may be teased for being dumb. If he is smarter than others, he may be called a nerd. The result is varying degrees of self-rejection.

EVIDENCES OF SELF-REJECTION

If a young person faces self-rejection concerning physical features, it is usually evidenced by an over attention to clothes and fads to take the attention away from what the person is rejecting. Keep in mind that over ninety-five percent of the most attractive and popular Christian students in the survey mentioned above were not satisfied with their

physical appearance. In Matthew 6:2,28 Jesus put the dissatisfaction with the physical and the clothing in the same verses when He said, "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment?"

INABILITY TO TRUST GOD

It is an obvious conclusion that if we reject God's design in making us we will have a problem trusting the Designer.

Ephesians 2:10 says, "...we are His workmanship..." Our attitude should be that of the Psalmist when he said, "I will praise thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14)

DIFFICULTY IN LOVING OTHERS

Matthew 19:19 says, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." We are to love our neighbor as we do ourselves, however, if we are not happy with the way God made us, how can we love others like ourselves? Complaints about unchangeable physical features, abilities, etc. are indications of self-rejection. Isaiah 45:9 says, "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker!...Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou?" Romans 9: 20 says, "...Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" Desiring to be different in areas that cannot be changed is a clear evidence of self-rejection.

A Scriptural attitude will be evidenced in a Scriptural prayer. Psalm 139:16 says, *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.* God never intended for our outward flesh to be a gauge for our contentment. First Samuel 16:7 says, "...man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Genuine happiness is based on inward qualities not outward appearance. We also need to realize that God's reputation is at stake with what we do with what He has given us. Second Corinthians 4: 10 says "...that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body."

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