

Attitude Towards Christ — Do You Honor Him?

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John 5:23

The right attitudes are absolutely necessary. They are necessary for unity in a local congregation. All the talent in the world cannot make up for wrong attitudes that we may have.

Prov. 23:7, “*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ...*”

Attitude defined: A state of mind or a feeling, disposition.

In other words, One’s perception of something.

One of the things in this life is a proper attitude of honoring Jesus Christ.

John 5:23, “*That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*”

Three things are taught in this simple passage:

Two things are definitely stated:

- “*That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father.*” Jesus claimed equality with God. John 10:30, “*I and my Father are one.*”
- “*He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*” The only approach to the Father is through the Son. John 14:6, “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” And he who rejects the Son also rejects the Father. John 12:48, “*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*”

One thing is inferred:

- To honor the Son is to honor the Father.

So let us learn how to honor the Son that we might thereby honor the Father.

How do we honor Christ? Let us notice some distinct ways of honoring Christ that are indicated in the scriptures.

We honor Christ by making the good confession.

1 Tim. 6:12-13, “*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession,*”

What was the good confession that Jesus made? The good confession was that Jesus acknowledged that He was the Christ.

Mark 14:61-62, “*But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am; and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”*

He also acknowledged that He was a king.

John 18:36-37, “*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*”

For this confession He died.

Peter made the confession that Jesus is the Christ. Matt. 16:16, “*And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”

John made the good confession and wrote a whole book to support it. John 20:30-31, “*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*”

The Ethiopian eunuch made this good confession. Acts 8:36-37, “*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*”

To fail to confess Christ before men is to dishonor Christ. Matt. 10:32-33, “*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*”

All men will be made to confess Christ's name in the last day. Phil. 2:11, "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

So we honor Him every time we make that good confession.

We honor Christ in Christian baptism.

The importance of baptism is seen in the fact that Christ submitted to it. Matt. 3:14-15, "*But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.*"

People today claim that baptism is a work of man, therefore they refuse to do it. Baptism is not of our righteousness, but the Lord's.

The importance of baptism is also seen in the fact that Jesus commanded all men to be baptized.

Matt. 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

How can anyone reject such a direct command?

Mark 16:16, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*"

Baptism is necessary for our soul salvation.

John 14:21, "*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*"

When we reject baptism we show that we really don't love Him.

In Christian baptism there is a beautiful picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Rom. 6:3-4, "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*"

Yet some say that baptism is not essential. Without baptism Christ won't dwell within us.

We honor Christ in the Lord's Supper.

Luke 22:19-20, *“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”*

After the church was formed on the Day of Pentecost, it continued steadfastly in the “*breaking of bread.*” Acts 2:42, *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

The church at Corinth observed this sacred feast, and Paul rebuked those who were not partaking in a worthy manner (1 Cor. 10th chapter), then in the 11th chapter he instructed them how it was to be performed, just as the Lord had instructed beforehand.

1 Cor. 11:23-29, *“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”*

From secular history of the early church we find that this practice prevailed during the first two centuries after the death of Christ.

Christians have an appointment with Christ to meet together on the first day of the week to break bread in memory of the Lord. To neglect it is to dishonor Christ and to sin against God.

Heb. 10:25-26, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,”*

We honor Christ in wearing the name “Christian” and refusing to wear another.

The church belongs to Christ. Acts 20:28, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*”

I ask you, whose blood purchased the church? God the Father or God the Son? Rev. 1:5-6, “*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*”

Since it was Jesus’ blood that purchased the church, it should be called after His name.

Matt. 16:18, “*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” Jesus declared that the church is His.

Rom. 16:16, “*Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.*”

The early church recognized that the church belonged to Christ. His disciples were called after His name in the first century and should be so called today.

Acts 11:26, “*And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*”

Acts 26:28, “*Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*”

Agrippa knew that Christ’s disciples called themselves Christians.

1 Pet. 4:15-16, “*But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*”

Peter referred to Christ’s followers as Christians.

To wear this name is to honor Christ; not to do so is to dishonor Him.

You husbands, suppose your wife insists on wearing the name of someone else. Would you not feel injured and offended?

Wouldn't any of you men be offended if your wife insisted on wearing a different name than yours?

In the New Testament our relationship to Christ is represented as that of a bride to her husband. 2 Cor. 11:2, "*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*"

Ought not, then, that we (the bride of Christ) wear the name of Christ, our bridegroom, and refuse to wear the name of any other? We would be jealous if our bride wore someone else's name. Christ is no different.

Even if a church wears Christ's name is no guarantee that it is the bride of Christ. Eph. 5:25-27, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*" Eph. 5:32, "*This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*"

Now, the church is the bride of Christ and should wear his name, just as couples have been doing since the beginning of time. Gen. 5:2, "*Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.*"

Many worldly churches do call themselves the church of Christ. They wear the correct name, but their description does not match the description of Christ's bride.

My brother Evert has the same last name as do I — Forsman. His wife Becky also bears the same name; however, even though Becky Forsman bears the same name as mine, she is not my bride. She does not fit the description of my bride. So, even if a church wears the correct name, it is not the bride of Christ if it does not fit the Biblical description.

We honor Christ by fashioning ourselves according to the pattern of the New Testament.

The title page of most Bibles rightly tells us that it is the "New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Therefore, if we are to honor Him, we must honor the New Testament by seeking to pattern ourselves in everything according to its holy precepts.

A beautiful type of this principle is to be found in the life and ministry of Moses. God wished to dwell among His people, Israel, and to that end commanded them to erect a tabernacle and a sanctuary.

But, since it was to be God's dwelling-place, it was not to be of human invention, so God took Moses upon the mountain and revealed to him the whole plan of the tabernacle.

Exo. 25:9, "According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."

If Moses had, in any way, deviated from this pattern, would God have been pleased with him? Nothing was to be left to the imagination or invention, even of this noble man of God, but the command was carried down to the very vessels of the tabernacle. Exo. 25:40, "And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount."

Even so it is with us, as we seek to live the Christian life and meet together in worship, we must do all things according to the pattern revealed in the New Testament.

We honor Christ by seeking to imitate Him.

Phil. 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"

Jesus came not to do His own will, but God's will.

- John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."
- Luke 22:42, "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

Unless we can come to Christ with that kind of attitude, we will be lost, for Christ accepts only those who are ready to let Him direct the course of their lives.

He came not to be served, but to serve.

Matt. 20:26-28, "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

This was the great underlying principle of His life.

He left heaven to save others. Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

He gave Himself for others during His ministry. 1 Pet. 2:21, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

He gave Himself for others on the cross.

- Isaiah 53:4-6, *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*
- Gal. 1:4, *“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.”*

This principle must motivate our service to God, or else we do not honor Christ.

Christ was obedient.

Heb. 5:8-9, *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”*

Christ was humble.

John 13:13-16, *“Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.”*

Christ was prayerful.

He began His ministry with prayer. Luke 3:21-22, *“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”*

He continued it with prayer, for many times we find Him praying during His ministry. He ended His ministry with prayer. Luke 23:46, *“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”*

We should imitate Him and have a prayerful life of our own.

Pray without ceasing. Involve Him in all of our life’s endeavors, problems, and decisions.

Conclusion.

If you are not a Christian, will you come to Jesus now after the same manner of the New Testament pattern of conversion (Hearing, Faith, Repentance, Confession, and Baptism)? Then you can go on your way rejoicing, as did the Ethiopian eunuch.

The forgiveness of your sins will be sure and your hope of eternal life will rest upon a foundation that cannot be shaken.

Are you a Christian? Or are you almost a Christian?

How does a person become a Christian? The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn't sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn't work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 11:18, *“... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”* If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There's a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I'm sorry; I'm sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of

action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.

- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are **“UNTO”** righteousness, life, or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, *“But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said *“it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.”* We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? *“for the remission of sins”*. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

