

The Right Heart Attitude

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Honouring and respecting God is of great importance to every Christian. If we do not know how to honour God, then our spiritual lives will fall apart. The Bible uses the word fear to mean respect, honour or glorify. For example, Job 1:1, says, “There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.”

Job is a man with a great example of honour towards God. If you would like a good book to read about the right attitude toward God, then look no further than Job. The devil did all manner of evil to Job, but Job kept faithful to God no matter what he went through.

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible’s message is the condition of the human heart, see Genesis 4. In this passage, you will read about Cain and Abel. This is an account about the condition of the human heart and what it leads to. When considering the human heart, it is good to bear in mind the words of Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”

Another key Scripture is 1 Samuel 16:7, “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

The wrath of God is only on those who are unrighteous and ungodly. Romans 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” 2 Peter 2:9 states that the Lord knows how to deliver his people out of harm’s way and to reserve the ungodly for the Day of Judgement. In Psalm 7:11 the Bible says, “God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.” Another verse that reminds us of this fact is John 3:36.

This lesson is about the correct way to worship and serve God that gives Him the respect and honour He rightly deserves.

Turn to Proverbs 8:13, complete the following verse below.

The _____ of the _____ is to hate evil; Pride and _____ and the _____ way And the _____ mouth, I hate.

This verse from the Book of Proverbs is self-explanatory. God hates evil. He does not want any of His people to go down the path of evil ways. God lovingly rebukes His people and shows them the right way to go in life. Hebrews 12:9 says, “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?”

As God hates all forms of evil, we also must hate evil. We must hold to the standards of God in this sinful world of rebellion. As you grow in faith and wisdom of Scripture you will begin to hate what God hates and love what God loves. This is called sanctification.

Turn to Psalm 19:9 and fill in the missing words.

The _____ of the _____ is clean, enduring _____; The _____ of the _____ are _____; they are righteous _____.

The salvation of God has redeemed us from eternal punishment of sin. God has cleansed us from all unrighteousness. When you consider all what Jesus has done for you it is hard not to want to give Him all the homage due.

Turn to Romans 5:8. Who died for us? _____

Turn to Romans 6:23. What gift has God given us?

Turn to Hebrews 13:5. Who will never leave you or forsake you?

Turn to Revelation 21:4. What has God promised there will be no more of?

Now, we are going to turn our attention to the Gospel of Matthew and what Jesus said about serving God rightly. The first time Jesus uses the word hypocrites in the Bible is in Matthew 6:2-5. More than 5 times in the Bible Jesus calls the Scribes and Pharisees, “hypocrites”.

Using verse 5 why do you think Jesus used this word to describe the Scribes and Pharisees and people who imitate them.

The Scribes and Pharisees were the religious leaders of Jesus' day. These men did good works to be seen of men. To give you an example of the hypocrisy of these people they would steal money from widows and make a public exhibition of themselves when placing the money in the temple offering plate. They did it to show off to others, to say 'look how good and spiritual I am, how holy I am.' Instead of serving God they were serving themselves and made themselves an example instead of God. Remember man can only see the outward, but God can see the inward thoughts and intentions of the heart.

This is not the life we should lead as Christians. We should always give praise to God and make God an example to follow. We should emulate Christ only. We see very clearly that merely outward appearances do not impress or get us favour with God. Romans 12:3 is a good reminder to us of this great truth, “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

We are also warned by Jesus of outward appearance when praying. Turn to Matthew 6:5-8 and read that passage in your Bible.

We must be real and sincere when we come to God in prayer. The religious hypocrites liked to say long prayers and stand to be seen of men. We are to be humble before the Lord (1

Peter 5:6). We do not need to impress God or people by our prayers, but we do need to be honest, humble, and sincere.

The Bible also teaches us to be doers of the word and not just hearers only. James 1:22 says, “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” James also teaches us that without works our faith is dead. Our faith is useless without works because our faith should cause us to serve God. When we become a Christian we are called by God to serve Him.

Lesson Summary

Living a life that pleases God is a wonderful blessing both to you and God. We should always seek to honour and respect God in thought, word, and deed. The heart attitude is the utmost importance. We need to be in obedience to God and follow His will. Be not fooled into thinking God is not concerned about the inward thoughts and actions.

Remembrance verse

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

