

Let Us Rise Up and Rebuild

Conclusion

Let Us Rise Up and Rebuild

- If we are going to work together to build a local congregation, the right spirit is critical.
 - All the talent in the world cannot make up for wrong attitudes
 - With the right attitudes, our efforts are enhanced and we live up to our full potential

Let Us Rise Up and Rebuild

- What attitudes will we consider?
 - Our attitudes toward God
 - Our attitudes toward our individual selves
 - Our attitudes toward our brethren
 - Our attitudes toward the work we do together as a church

Attitudes Toward God

- Love
 - Matt. 22:37 - “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”
 - Do we understand what is meant by all our heart, soul, and mind?

Attitudes Toward God

- Faith and trust
 - Heb. 11:1, 6 - “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Attitudes Toward God

- Do we have the kind of faith that pleases God?
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - Prov. 16:3 - “Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.”
 - It is better to study your way into stronger belief than to hope that someday you will believe your way into stronger study.

Attitudes Toward God

- Thankfulness

- Col. 3:17 - “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- Eph. 5:20 - “...Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- Rom. 1:21 - “...Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Attitudes Toward God

- Thankfulness
 - An attitude of thankfulness for the blessings we share will help reduce the bitterness that can destroy the spirit in any congregation.
 - If our relationship with God is right, it increases the likelihood that our relationship with others will be right as well.
 - Prov. 16:7 - “When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Attitudes Toward Our Individual Selves

- Humility

- Rom. 12:3, 16 - “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”
- John 13:6-17

Attitudes Toward Our Individual Selves

- Humility

- “Show me a man who cannot bother to do little things, and I'll show you a man who cannot be trusted to do big things.”

- (Lawrence D. Bell)*

- Matt. 25:21 - “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”

Attitudes Toward Our Individual Selves

- Teachability

- Prov. 15:31-32 - “The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. 32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.”
- Teachability includes an eagerness to learn and grow, and the ability to learn from correction, to profit from advice and criticism
- “Education is too good to limit to the young.”
(Elton Trueblood)

Attitudes Toward Our Individual Selves

- Honesty toward our mistakes
 - This includes a willingness to admit *and* correct our mistakes
 - James 5:16 - “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Love
 - John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - 1Peter 1:22 - “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Cooperation
 - 1Cor. 12:21 - “And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.”
 - We not only must work, we must work together
 - “It marks a big step in a man's development when he comes to realize that other men can be called on to help him do a better job than he can do alone.” (*Andrew Carnegie*)

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Appreciation for others and their work
 - 1Thes. 2:13 - “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”
 - 1Cor. 1:4; 2Cor. 1:7 - Even Corinth was praised for what they accomplished.
 - True appreciation for others will greatly reduce criticism, gossip, and divisiveness.

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Submissiveness
 - Eph. 5:21 - “Submitting to one another in the fear of God.”
 - 1Peter 5:5 - “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Peaceable-ness

- Rom. 14:19 - “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”
- Eph. 4:1-3 - “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Peaceable-ness

- Matt. 5:9 - “Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.”
- James 3:17-18 - “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Hospitality and social fellowship
 - Rom. 12:13 - "...Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."
 - Heb. 13:2 - "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."
 - 1Peter 4:9 - "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Hospitality and social fellowship
 - 3John 5-8 - “Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, 6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, 7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Warmth, friendliness, openness
 - Acts 2:44-47 - “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people...”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Warmth, friendliness, openness
 - Acts 11:27-30 - “And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Gentleness and meekness
 - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”
 - 2Tim. 2:24-26 - “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”

Attitudes Toward Our Brethren

- Forgiveness, forbearance, patience, longsuffering
 - Eph. 4:32 - “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

Attitudes Toward Our Work

- Gratitude for the privilege of our work
 - 1Tim. 1:12 - “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry”
 - 1Cor. 15:9-10 - “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

Attitudes Toward Our Work

- Enthusiasm and eagerness
 - 2Cor. 9:7 - “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
 - Nothing is so easy but that it becomes difficult if done with reluctance; nothing is so hard that it cannot be made easier with enthusiasm.

Attitudes Toward Our Work

- Industriousness, diligence, energy
 - Neh. 4:6 - “So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.”
 - Col. 3:23 - “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men”
 - Prov. 18:9 - “He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.”

Attitudes Toward Our Work

- Initiative
 - Initiative has been defined as the willingness to do what is right without having to be prodded. We should not have to be reminded constantly of our responsibilities
 - 1Tim. 4:14 - “Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”
 - 2Tim. 1:6 - “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”
 - When you see something that needs to be done, don't criticize, energize (do it yourself).

Attitudes Toward Our Work

- Positive-ness
 - Phil. 2:14 - “Do all things without complaining and disputing”
 - The chronic complainer and the negative thinker are obstructions to the work of a congregation.

Attitudes Toward Our Work

- Persistence

- John 4:34 - “Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”
- Heb. 6:12 - “That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”
- 2Tim. 4:7 - “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
- We need “finishative” as well as “initiative.”

Lessons

- Ecc. 10:10 - “If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength; But wisdom brings success.”
- 2Tim. 2:21 - “Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”