



### Attitudes are Contagious

- Numbers 13 & 14
- Joshua 24



### Key Question: Do you love doing what you do? Why or why not?



### What are the characteristics of a “positive” attitude?

- enthusiastic / passionate
- caring
- encouraging
- humble
- confident



### Spirit or spirit? – What Frames a Christian’s Unique Attitude

- 1 Corinthians 2
- Philippians 2



### Attitude Self-Assessment

- Do I love teaching? Do I love my role as a teacher? Why . . . or why not?
- Which aspects of teaching do I particularly enjoy? Which do I dislike?
- Am I a different person in the classroom than I am in other school settings?
- Am I a different person at home than I am in the school setting?
- What attitudes are students learning from me?
- Why do I teach?
- What is the purpose/mission of the school I represent?
  
- Does my attitude encourage students to follow in my footsteps? Put another way: Do I encourage students to devote themselves to full-time service to the church?



### What factors challenge the attitude of a high school teacher?

- spiritual immaturity of students
- work/reward ratio
- familiarity – contempt, apathy
- “success” mentality of society / parents
- “spread too thin” / “too many hats”
- tiredness

- jealousy, envy, pride – selfishness



### The “Be-Attitudes”

- Matthew 5
- 1 Corinthians 13



### Additional Issues – Attitude “Alleys”

- Prioritize the following component parts of the so-called “educational reaction”:  
knowledge, method, attitude.
- What is unique about a Christian teaching environment and the issue of attitude?
- Whose attitude is more important: the teacher’s or the student’s?
- Are attitudes “caught” more than “taught”?
- What helps a Christian teacher maintain a consistent attitude?
- Does a positive Christian attitude mean that I am always happy?
- What is the relationship between discipline and attitude?
- Evaluate: Anger is inconsistent with a Christian attitude.
- What is the relationship between humor and attitude?
- What is the relationship between attitude and academic expectations (standards)?
- What is the relationship between athletics and the development of a Christian attitude?
- Evaluate: A Christian teacher needs to have a transparent personality.



### Avoid the Attitude Extremes

- One extreme: Teaching becomes an end in itself.
- Other extreme: Undue concern that every experience must have a spiritual import.



### Additional Attitude “Allies”

- 2 Corinthians 3 & 4
- Matthew 10
- “Practical” things:
  - Devotional life
  - Close relationship with peer
  - Sing psalms, hymns, spiritual songs

**Share the mind of Christ!**

**Be who you are!**

**Students must perceive: The Gospel means more to you than anything else!**

### 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" – but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

### Philippians 2:1-18

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

### Matthew 5:2-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

## An “A” for Attitude

Prof. Paul E. Koelplin

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient,  
love is kind.

It does not envy,  
it does not boast,  
it is not proud.

It is not rude,  
it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily angered,  
it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects,  
always trusts,  
always hopes,  
always perseveres.

Love never fails.

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### “10 Commandments for Attitude”

1. Demonstrate enthusiasm. Show your love and respect for teaching from the first class to the last.
2. Motivate students to learn. Explain in detail your expectations and provide challenging goals for your course.
3. Encourage discussion and comments. Do not show verbally or non-verbally that ‘I know it all’ or ‘I am superior to you.’
4. Be open to constructive criticism.
5. Help students outside of class. Sincerely state that you are here to help students and that you are willing to talk at any time.
6. Make students feel welcome to ask for additional help.
7. Demonstrate that you are ‘considerate’ of students. Be personable and friendly. Try to be a personal counselor on student problems.
8. Generate a feeling of equality among students.
9. Show respect toward the students.
10. Have a positive attitude toward the class and students. This is the last commandment but the most important because all the earlier commandments depend on it. Always exhibit a kind, caring attitude. Try to demonstrate very positive feelings toward your class and students by knowing every one of them. The Pygmalion Effect works.