



Attitude of Excellence

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by

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INTRODUCTION

You may be tempted while listening to the material in this class, to feel condemned. You should not feel condemned, but rather loved because God chastens who He loves! We all have areas that can use correcting and perfecting, so be encouraged.

DEFINITIONS

Legalism

A strict literal adherence to the law or to a particular code, as of religion or morality. A strict adherence to the letter of the law and not its spirit.

Mark 12:30-31 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' 31The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

Excellence

The state, quality or condition of excelling. Superiority. The quality of excelling; possessing good qualities in high degree.

Isaiah 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Continuous Process Improvement

Attitude

A position of the body or manner of carrying oneself. A state of mind. A complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings and values and dispositions to act in certain ways.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Peculiar People

1 Peter 2:8-10 (NKJV) and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.
9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special (peculiar) people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world but be a new a different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how His ways will really satisfy you.

PREDETERMINED RESPONSE

It's the little things that get you.

Bad decisions don't come suddenly and unexpectedly upon a righteous person. There is a process to get to the errors.

Being Politically Correct or having Situational Ethics can corrupt Godly thinking and change our responses to reactions. We will begin tolerating little things that are contrary to the Word of God.

The more of God's word that is settled in your heart, the better your response will be. We are not to be tossed around by conditions.

Repentance

Repentance is a reversal of decision or a change of mind. The Christian life is a continual life of repentance because we are growing and developing Christ in us.

Attitude is predetermined

When a tempting situation presents, it is too late to decide your decision concerning that temptation. Know before the situation how you think about that situation.

More Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

Best = Greek *Kreittōn* more useful, more serviceable, more advantageous, more excellent

Gifts = Greek *Charisma* Provision of grace, faith, virtue, extraordinary power

Holy Spirit is actually the gift and in I Corinthians 12, God is actually describing the manifestation of that gift. In Galatians, God describes the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and not more gifts.

The Best of Everything

God is a God of excellence.

Genesis 1: 31 Then God looked over all that he had made, and it was excellent in every way. This ended the sixth day. (NLT)

Envision the end goal, not the surface situation temptation.

Genesis 4:4 Abel brought the best lambs.

Give God your best

Genesis 18:6 Abraham gave the angels his best flour.

I Samuel 2:28-29 Eli's sons stole the best of the offerings of the people.

Psalms 25:12 Where is the man who fears (reverences) the Lord? God will teach him how to choose the best.

Proverbs 31:29 "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."

Luke 15:21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22" But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23' And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24' for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY

I Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember, resist unholy feelings of condemnation and embrace the correction of God.

I Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man (person) of God may be complete, **thoroughly** equipped for every good work.

Greek *Theopneustos*, God breathed

Throughout this class we will show you scripture so you know the class is profitable for you because it's based on scripture. We want you completely equipped for whatever God has for you.

SPIRIT

Your mind needs to be settled on the fact that since you are born again, you are a spiritual being.

Matthew 3:16 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:

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Without Holy Spirit, you can't fully control your soul and body. Holy Spirit is the most real part of the born-again believer.

Jude 18-20 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

www.elijah.com, Strong's Concordance

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There's no formula to living in Holy Spirit. It takes relationship. It takes practice

God is not a gender. Holy Spirit has no gender.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 John 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Holy Spirit is God. Holy Spirit is as much God as Jesus was God. Holy Spirit is in you and is also called the Christ in you, the hope of glory. To deny Spirit is to deny that God is dwelling in you.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

Holy Spirit is our teacher and guides us into all truth. Holy Spirit hears God speak and speaks to us and shows us things to come (prophesy).

1 Peter 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,

Your soul is purified by obeying the word through the Spirit. We cannot control our souls without Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

When we are grieved, we are sad, we mourn. Disobedience causes a sadness in Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

The term 'drunk in the Spirit' is not a Biblical term, but describes the overwhelming overriding effect the Spirit can have on the flesh. We can *look* like we are drunk when Holy Spirit overtakes us, but in fact the Spirit is just showing a manifestation that is bigger than our flesh.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the

flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Galatians 5:21-23 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The fruit of the Spirit is described in terms that are shown in our thinking and actions as a result of being Spirit led. We cannot successfully sustain these attitudes without Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:21-23 (NLT) envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit

SOUL

When we speak of the soul in this course we are referring to the part of us that controls our mind, will and emotions. It's the part where you know where you live, where you store your relationship information, the part that keeps the body functions going automatically.

In the original Biblical language of the New Testament it is the word where we get the English word, psyche.

Greek *psyche*, breath or breath life.

Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart (Greek, *kardia*) that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Greek, *kardia*,

1) the heart

a) that organ in the animal body which is the center of the circulation of the blood, and hence was regarded as the seat of physical life

b) denotes the center of all physical and spiritual life

1) the vigor and sense of physical life

2) the center and seat of spiritual life

a) the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors

b) of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence

c) of the will and character

d) of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions

c) of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate

Matthew 12:34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

The psalmist said in Psalms 150:6, Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Your dog has soul, your cat has soul, even your pet fish has soul. There is nothing divine about soul except that all life comes from God. It is separate from our Spirit.

It is in our soul that we are sad, angry, happy, content, etc.

The soul manifests in our word, our actions and our body language.

What is behind the words, the actions and the body language?

Soul Wounds and Soul Ties

Soul wounds are damage caused to our psyche by hurtful and hateful words or actions.

Soul ties are unholy or unsanctified connections to people or things or activities that are exalted over the things of God.

Mark 8:36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

In this passage when Jesus said *loses* it means damages.

Greek, *zēmioō*, to affect with damage, do damage to, 2) to sustain damage, to receive injury, suffer loss

We can actually damage our own soul!

It was never ever God's intention for our soul to be damaged. Therefore, God has given us His word in order to repair the damaged parts and restore a right soul or heart within us.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou may prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospers.

God wants your soul to benefit. When that happens it actually affects your health.

Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Psalms 24:3-5 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Psalms 23:3 He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalms 41:4 I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.

Psalms 42:1 As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after thee, O God.

Psalms 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Psalms 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Unholy amputation

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Separating ourselves from God's people because of a soul wound that we might have received from a Christian is an unholy amputation. God wants us to gather together even more frequently in these end times.

Find a healthy Christian group to gather with. Allow the Godly love they show you to heal that wound and become once again, a contributing loving part of the Body of Christ.

Reality shows/Social Media/Literature

What we watch and hear will sound normal over time. If it is contrary to the Word of God, we will eventually begin to assimilate unholy speech and activities in our lives.

I Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Unholy people are a mission field, not our friends and family.

Ephesians 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

II Corinthians 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

1 John 1:5-6 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

Holiday Traditions

Mark 7:13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

Holiday traditions should be re-evaluated through the scriptures and if they are contrary to scriptures, should be removed from our environment.

BODY

In this section we are speaking not only of your physical body of flesh, bones and blood, but also of your physical environment.

Wasting what God has given us physically creates a situation of lack and deterioration.

The prodigal son was given physical riches, but wasted them rather than growing them for the Kingdom of God.

Proverbs 17:22 A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Matthew 13:58 And he (Jesus) could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands on a few sick folk, and healed them... (because of their unbelief)

Stewardship

I Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

Greek, *oikonomia*

1) the management of a household or of household affairs

a) specifically, the management, oversight, administration, of other's property

b) the office of a manager or overseer, stewardship

c) administration, dispensation

Luke 16:1-5 He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. 2 So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' 3 "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.' 5 "So he called every one of his master's debtors to *him*, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' . . .

Luke 16:10 He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.

Show God That You Will Take Good Care of His Provisions

What is healthy?

Bless your food. Get God's instructions for what and how much to consume. Exercise in moderation in balance with God's other laws and missions.

Let's consider some scripture to get balance in our understanding.

Get Initiatives from God About What You Should Consume

Matthew 3:4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey

Matthew 11:17-19 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented. 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'he hath a devil'. 19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners.' But wisdom is justified of her children.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Acts 11:1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. 2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, 3 Saying, You went into men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. 4 But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, 5 I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me: 6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat. 8 But I said, not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth. 9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, what God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

1 Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profits little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Addictions

Chemical, activity (shopping, sex, sports), pornography.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

All Addictions Are Self-Medication

Ask God to reveal our addictions.

Prayer: Father God, in the name of Jesus Christ, we ask you to reveal any areas where we have been brought under the power of something other than You, other than Your Word, Father, as those areas are revealed to us, we ask you for the courage and the strength to control those things, to put them down, to fast from those things as we need to for a season, to do whatever You instruct us to do to cause a Godly control to come over those areas rather than those areas controlling us in the name of Jesus, amen.

Non-body physical environment

How we were raised

What the people in that house allow or demand

Effects of our soul either filtered or unfiltered by the Spirit of God.

Controlling Finances

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first, and counts the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

To control finances, we must have a budget. Even to get out of debt, we can only do it if we budget for it.

Here is a sample plan for getting out of debt:

Snowball Debt Busting:

List **ALL** debts on paper from smallest to largest. Don't skip any. Only put larger debts at the top if they are critical to keeping your home, etc. (like IRS, for example).

Make **minimum** payments so you stay current on all accounts. Put **every** available dollar, penny, nickel, quarter (you get the idea) to paying off the smallest debt. Once that debt is gone, now start working on the next debt, putting all the money you would have put into the first debt into the next debt. ALL 'FOUND' MONEY GOES TO PAYING THESE DEBTS OFF.

You will be thrilled as you cross off each debt that has been defeated.

Rules

1 Timothy 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

Deuteronomy 8:1-5 "Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. 2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every

word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. 4 **Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.** 5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Matthew 7:16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

2 Corinthians 9:8-12 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

Genesis 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

If you are married, Attitude of Excellence works best when a husband and wife work together toward Continuous Process Improvement. But if you have a spouse who will not cooperate, the first point of change is prayer. The next point of change is to lovingly share with them the Scriptures in this course. The third point of change is to lead by example. Start being a good steward yourself, lovingly help them (clean up after them, counter inappropriate words with words of love).

If you are a parent, you have a responsibility to raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4). You are obligated to God to bring up your children in the way they should go. (Proverbs 22:6)

We do our children no favors by not giving them boundaries and teaching them to love God and be good stewards. They can learn at very young ages to tithe, not make messes, be respectful, etc.

If you are constantly replacing broken toys, it's your fault, not theirs. Teach them that responsibility.

Have an Attitude of Excellence at work. Apply this even if no other employee does so.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Your Tomorrow CAN Be Better Than Your Yesterday!