

Attitudes, Traps and Hypocrisies

So many things can hold us back from being a good example and even though we try and hide the dysfunction it is noticeable. Our Father knows our weaknesses and others can see them. If people want to have a good relationship with us sometimes they have to wade through the façade. Jesus talked about hypocrisy because it keeps us from learning faith. Playing church is not the same as being the Church. Speaking honestly is the first lesson in Christ we should learn.

Mathew 5:37 "But let your communication be, **Yea, yea; Nay, nay**: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

Attitudes reveal a great many things. If you ask someone a few important questions it is easy to see what a persons real feelings are.

Here are some questions that can reveal a persons attitude.

1. Is there something about the previous day you would change?
2. What did you feel when you got dressed and got ready for the day?
3. Are you confident about accomplishing your goals?
4. Do you feel like people let you down?
5. Are you hurt by peoples opinion of you?

Guarding our words and reactions to others words.

Psalm 64:3 "Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, And bend their bows to shoot their arrows—bitter words,"

Traps are the things that we feel are more important. What is unbalanced or unfair?

What areas seem to take up your thinking time. Do you make snap decisions based on bias or presumption.

1. Do you feel protective of certain people?
2. Is there something that makes you mad or impatient toward some kinds of people?
3. Do you feel a bias toward certain kinds of people?
4. Do you feel controlled or obligated to help a certain kind of person?

James 1:19 "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Hypocracies are a normal mode for the human condition. When we walk in humility it helps to bring us back from self-righteousness. Here are some questions to find out if you are walking in a humble way.

1. Do you feel that you need validation from others too often?
2. When you see failure in your life can you find humor and forgiveness for yourself?
3. Do you feel you have standards for others that even you can not live up to?
4. When other people let you down can you give them grace?
5. Do you compare yourself with others and use a scale to judge success?
6. Do you have good accountability to mature Christians?

Even paul dealt with his own hypocrisy.

Romans 7:15 "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good."