

1Yr21 – Bad Attitudes Philippians 2:14

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Open your Bibles. You are going to love this. *You are going to love this.* Title of the message “Bad Attitudes.” You love it already, don’t you? We are doing our next message in our “One Year With Jesus” series; this is our twenty-first message. Our key verse for this message is Philippians 2:14, but don’t turn there, it will be the last verse we do.

Last message we looked at the BE-attitudes. And I was impressed today to speak on what you might call the dark side, on the other side, not to borrow a Star Wars idiom. But we wanted to speak about the dark side of the BE-attitudes. And so not a Beatitude this study, but a Bad Attitude instead.

If you are listening later, or you didn’t hear last message, you should. Because even though the word that we get from the Latin word for “blessing” that we transliterate to “beatitude” isn’t specifically in an entomological sense, it’s not specifically about attitude. It sounds good. And people sometimes mistakenly teach the Beatitudes about attitude because they really are a Christ-like attitude. If you study them, even though the word means “Approved by God” (I’m clearing this up for the theology guys and gals in the room) this is the life, the attitude that causes you to be approved by God. We call them Beatitudes, the dark side is the Bad Attitudes.

I just want to thank Chuck Swindoll. Dr. Charles R. Swindoll is a fabulous Bible teacher, and incredible storyteller, and I look to him for encouragement in this area because he has done a ton of teaching on attitudes, both good and bad.

Can I just tell you, our attitude has everything to do, listen please, our attitude has everything to do with how we relate to God vertically, and how relate to others, horizontally. Our attitude has everything to do with how we relate. And our attitude has much, I wanted to say everything but I would just say much, much to do with whether we are currently being used by God or being used by the enemy of God. Whether we are being used as a conduit of Heaven or a conduit of hell in a big way is based on our attitude.

So we saw the approved by God Beatitudes last week, and my prayer for you this study is you would have the courage to see the dark side of the Beatitudes. And we’ll call them “Bad Attitudes.”

Let’s pray. *Heavenly Father, please Lord, just unveil our eyes. Take the scales away and allow us to see how we can literally bring heaven into our lives and how we can similarly be used by the enemy based on our heart condition, based on our attitude Lord. And so we looked at the positive side last message and we pray that those attitudes, those character traits would grow and grow and grow. Lord we pray that you would give us the*

equal but contrary motivation to cleanse the poison of bad attitude from our life. Please do it by your power, in Jesus' name, amen.

So instead of a BE-attitude a bad attitude is most often displayed in complaining, grumbling, criticizing (we call it a critical spirit), the Bible calls it murmuring. There's a neat word study for murmuring, but the Hebrew word sounds like you're murmuring. That is how a bad attitude is so often displayed. A bad attitude usually comes because we don't really like what's going on. What's going on is not how we would have it done. In fact, it's not how we would do it if somebody was smart enough to put us in charge. Bad attitudes come because what we are experiencing is not what we expected to experience. Our attitude is driven – please hear me – by how we see things, how we perceive things. *How we see things, how we perceive things drive our attitude.*

There was an old man named Sam. He had been married almost sixty years to his faithful wife, Ethel. Sam was in the hospital and the end was near. It was his last days, and as he lay in that bed, he looked up at his wife and he said, "Ethel, you have been with me through every trial and every difficulty I have ever faced. You were with me when I was young and I was injured so badly and it took me so long to recover, you were right there with me."

She said "Yes Sam, I was. I was there with you."

And he said "You were with me the night we barely escaped when our house burned to the ground."

And she said, "Yes honey, I was right there with you."

And he said, "Ethel you were with me when things turned so bad in the business that we lost everything we had."

And she said, "Yes dear. I was right there with you in every one of those trials and every one of those difficulties."

And Sam thought for a minute, and he looked up at his wife and he said, "Ethel, I think you're bad luck!"

Our attitude is driven by how we see things. Our attitude is driven by how we perceive things. Our attitude comes from how we view things and how we view things determines how we respond to things. Can I say it again please? Our attitude is driven by how we view things. How we view things determines how we respond to things. And how we respond to things determines in a great way whether we are being used by God or by Satan. Probably not by Satan personally, but by one of his little minion demons. Our actions are used by heaven or hell because we are in a way, pawns in a great spiritual battle.

In the Old Testament God so often teaches by illustration. I love the Old Testament, and if you don't understand the Old Testament this may help. In the Old Testament when we look at an event we can see how God responds. And if we will allow it, the event and God's response will paint a vivid picture of how God feels about a certain thing. And so for 400 years the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. And with incredible miracles God brought the Israelites out of Egypt with the famous ten plagues, hopefully you've heard about them. Then God parted the Red Sea and allowed his people to pass through and then he used the same sea to drown his people's enemies, the Egyptian army. And in the Exodus, as they moved out of Egypt, God's people saw miracle, after miracle after miracle. When they were thirsty God brought water from a rock. When they were hungry he brought angel food from heaven. And God was with them visibly. Can you imagine? God was with them visibly in the pillar of fire and the pillar of clouds.

But even with all of that the Israelites began to see their circumstances differently. Though at one time they were in awe of the miracles and the power of God, their perception began to change. Instead of focusing on the incredible blessings of God, they began to focus on the inconveniences. Instead of the astounding supernatural, miraculous power of God, they were consumed by their inconveniences and their difficulties. You could hear them talking.

“You know, it wasn't *that* bad back in Egypt. We didn't have it *that bad*. And how come no one has ever asked *me* what I want to eat? How come I didn't have a say so in what God brought down from heaven? And how come we're not going the way *I* think we should go? I lined this out, I think we should be moving to the south, but his old guy who probably can't even see a map, Moses, he's leading us in the wrong direction completely. Who put that guy in charge? I'm tired of drinking the same miraculous water every day. I'm tired of eating the same miraculous food every day. I'm tired of following the same miraculous pillar of fire and pillar of cloud every single day. Here's what I think... I think we should boycott. I think we should boycott this Moses guy and send him a message that we need to start doing things our way.”

Who doesn't complain like that? It's pretty natural, right? Well, in the Old Testament, through illustration, God gives us vivid pictures of how he feels about certain things, especially sin. And so, the Book of Numbers is where we are at. Chapter 11. We'll read a few verses out of there. You should read it, it's a great text. Number 11:1 gives us a pretty clear picture of how important our attitude is to God.

Numbers 11:1 (NLT)

I Soon the people began to complain about their hardship, and the Lord heard everything they said. Then the Lord's anger blazed against them, and he sent a fire to rage among them, and he destroyed some of the people in the outskirts of the camp.

Remember I said in the Old Testament God did a great thing where he used illustrations to paint vivid pictures about how he feels about our sin? You might have to read between the lines, somewhere in there where it says *the Lord's anger blazed against them, and he sent a fire to rage among them, and he destroyed some of the people...* Those are the clues about how God felt about their attitude.

In Numbers 11:10, the discouraging attitude of the people is taking its toll on Moses. I don't want to read Moses' response, because I don't want you to think that I'm implying I feel that way, because I don't want you to know that.

But in Numbers 11:15, Moses is talking about having to deal with the people and the bad attitudes of the people. And in Numbers 11:15 Moses says to God,

Numbers 11:15 (NLT)

15 If this is how you intend to treat me, just go ahead and kill me. Do me a favor and spare me this misery!"

Whoa! I'm trying really hard not to say, "Have you ever said that?" Here's the problem. Moses developed even a more discouraging attitude than the people had. It's like he took all their bad attitudes and brought them all inside his own heart. And so listen, this is important. In Numbers 11:16 God tells Moses how to get through this situation. This is important because we use (and this might sound a little odd if you're not familiar with these terms) a Moses style of leadership in the Calvary Chapel movements, for better or worse. And here in Numbers 11:16 God anoints elders and leaders to come along side Moses and help carry the burden of the people. God's answer is that he anoints elders and leaders and supernaturally gifts them to come alongside Moses to help Moses carry the burden of the people. That is the way God still does it today. And I thank God for it. And I thank God for the men he has brought around me. Moses got seventy men.

So here's the deal. At this particular point, the complaining, the bad attitude was that the people wanted meat. And who doesn't want some good meat? I mean really, seriously. And so the Lord tells Moses, they want meat? I'll give them meat.

Have you ever had little dove breast wrapped in bacon on the barbecue? Oh, that's tasty. That's really good. It's a good meal. I grew up dove hunting in Blythe, I loved it and man that dove was so good. So God sends quail. He sends so much quail that you can hardly walk. He sends mountains of quail for miles and every direction. He absolutely inundates the people with quail. Numbers 11:31 the people have so much quail they could never, ever, ever eat it. You would think oh, they're complaining, and they're boycotting and they're demanding works. See, they got their meat.

Read with me in 11:33-34,

Numbers 11:33–34 (NLT)

33 But while they were gorging themselves on the meat—while it was still in their mouths—the anger of the Lord blazed against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague.

34 So that place was called . . . [the] “graves of gluttony” because there they buried the people who had craved meat from Egypt.

So if you read enough of these, you get a feel for how God responds in a certain way, at least how he feels about the bad attitudes that develop among his people. The truth is over and over, the Israelites, when they were consumed with complaining and murmuring and a critical spirit, God just took a bunch of them out. That’s why we don’t like the Old Testament.

When Israel was on the edge of the Promised Land the twelve spies had gone in to spy out the land, and two of the spies – Joshua and Caleb – had come out with this great, encouraging, positive report about the Promised Land. And ten of the spies came out with a negative and discouraging report. But hear me please; they were negative and discouraged when they went in. They had a negative and discouraging attitude when they went in and so what they saw, though they saw the same thing that Joshua and Caleb saw, what they saw caused them to give a negative and discouraging report to the people.

Here’s the big lesson, please hear me. Who, if you know the story, did the masses follow? Did they follow the two spies that had the positive and encouraging report or the ten spies who shared the negative, discouraging report? The people followed the bad attitudes. The people followed the negative attitudes. We are drawn to it. That’s what makes daytime talk shows work. *We are drawn to it.*

Why on the news do they not ever put anything positive? Like right at the news when they run out of everything that turns your stomach, they show a dog that’s been saved at the animal shelter. They put in ten seconds of good because they know that we are drawn to the negative. We are drawn to the discouraging.

And so the ten spies come out, negative and discouraging and all of Israel follows them. It’s in Numbers 14. The question is, what is the outcome? What is the outcome if you were one of those ten spies that came out with a negative and a discouraging attitude about what God had promised would happen in the Promised Land? Here’s the outcome.

Numbers 14:1–4 (NLT)

1 Then the whole community began weeping (complaining) aloud, and they cried all night.

2 Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. “If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!” they complained.

3 “Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives

and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?"

4 Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"

(That has happened twice in this church in the last fifteen years.) So again, God, by way of illustrative teaching, paints a picture for us of how he felt about it.

Numbers 14:11–12 (NLT)

11 And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them?"

12 I will disown them and destroy them with a plague. Then I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they are!"

We're getting it right? Incredibly Moses pleads for these people. Moses goes to God on behalf of the people who are conniving and conspiring to remove him and he begs God to not destroy them.

Numbers 14:20–22 (NLT)

20 Then the Lord said, "I will pardon them as you have requested.

21 But as surely as I live, and as surely as the earth is filled with the Lord's glory,

22 not one of these people will ever enter [the promised] land . . .

And that's exactly what happened. Not one of those people that received the negative and discouraging report and owned it and bought into that negative and discouraging attitude, not one of them entered the Promised Land. God says, "I'll just wait for nature to take its course. And when you're all dead, I'll take your kids in. I'll take the next generation in and see if they have a little better attitude."

Now, listen, I don't want to say isn't that what you do with your kids because of the "dead" part. But if one of our kids has a bad attitude, don't we just say "Listen, you're going to have to go sit over here. And the rest of us are going to do this. But because of your attitude I have to remove you from what's happening."

Why is it so hard for us to learn this? God hates people among his own people sowing negativity and discouragement. And if these illustrations don't convince you of that, keep reading, there's more.

Here's the question: WHY? Why is God so radical about it? Why does God so radically remove people just because their only sin is having a negative and discouraging attitude? Why? I'd like to tell you, since you're asking. It's because a negative and a discouraging attitude is a highly contagious disease. It is passed in the air. It goes in the ears and that is how people are infected by the disease. And when that disease takes hold, it kills the

spiritual life in God's people. A negative and a discouraging attitude is a contagious disease that is caught in the ears of God's people and when it's caught it kills the spiritual life of God's people. And so in the Old Testament God forcibly removed the people who were spreading that disease.

Fortunately, in the New Testament, there's a new dispensation; a new way of handling things. Here's how God does it now. Instead of killing the person, he gives us the power to crucify the sin. Instead of dropping you dead in the desert he gives you the power to crucify the sin, to recognize it and to crucify it. And honestly, truth be told, if we were still living Old Testament style and if God were dealing with us Old Testament style, at some point every single one of us would be face down dead in the desert just outside of Blythe. (That's where they put them.) I never got driven out to the desert and threatened with death, but a number of my family members did. Including my cousin by his own dad. Not cool.

But God doesn't take us out in the desert and kill us anymore. Instead he says, "Listen, learn from the Old Testament and operate spiritually. Recognize the disease and crucify it before I have to get you eastbound on the 10 freeway toward Blythe."

Chuck Swindoll says this. He says the real problem is that when a Christian takes on a negative and discouraging attitude, again characterized by complaining and murmuring, here is the real problem. We are actually denying that God is at work. We're actually denying that God is in charge of what is happening. We're actually denying that God has the ability to change this if he wants. When we start complaining and murmuring, what we are really saying is, "God, if you would just get off the throne and let me on it, I'll fix this, because obviously you're not doing a very good job."

Our critical spirit, our negative attitude is saying to God we can do a better job than you if you get out of the way and turn the reins of this joint over to me. That is how much pride we have.

I will tell you there is one entity that does appreciate the negative and discouraging attitude in Christians. It is the enemy of your soul and the enemy of the work of God. The enemy of the church. It's because he doesn't have to work if you're doing his work for him. Because his job is to destroy by sin or remove by discouragement. These are the two biggest ways the enemy takes people out of Kingdom work. He either draws them into sin to destroy them or just gets them discouraged and gives them opportunity to quit. And so, if you're working for him, he is at home, vaping, or whatever he is doing.

Remember what the impact was? When I say you're doing the enemy's work, remember what the impact of the negative and discouraging attitude was on the people of Israel? It was about a million dead. About a million dead in the desert. So we take that and we say, okay, I don't want to do that. That's not what I'm here for. That's not what I'm following Jesus for.

Guys, we have got to learn to trust God. To truly trust God with what is happening. *To truly trust God with what's happening.* To say, you know what, God? You actually know what is going on. You actually know. You don't even need me to tell you, you are already aware and you are already at work. You are sovereignly and omnipotently and omnisciently at work. We need to learn to trust God and we need to learn to follow God without criticizing and murmuring and complaining, because it proves we don't trust him. We have to learn to be grateful. Grateful for the miraculous food he gives, Grateful for the living water he gives, grateful for the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud. Grateful that we are in his presence and we are experiencing his blessing.

And listen, if everything is going like you want it to go, that means God has gotten off the throne and given it to you. You don't want that. You think you do, but you don't. It's going like God's allowing it to go. Let it. Be at peace, man. Keep your eyes on the pillar of fire, not on the manna, not complaining "what am I going to make with this manna today?" Don't complain about the manna; keep your eyes on the pillar of fire.

Be grateful for the destination. Be grateful. *Be grateful.* "God you are doing something here, you are taking me someplace here, you're transforming me in this situation and I'm grateful for it. *I'm grateful for it.*"

It doesn't feel that good, but that proves it's from God, because if it feels good it is probably your flesh. The deeper level of feeling good we call joy. And the joy of the Lord is our strength. The joy is not subject to the conditions but rather is without regard to the conditions. The joy is when the circumstances don't get to us. The joy is when we could complain and we don't. The joy is when things aren't going the way we would do it and we're joyful anyway. That's a powerful thing. *That's a powerful, powerful environment.*

So, in order to do that here's what we need. We need to ultimately crucify, listen carefully please to me, we need to ultimately crucify that unbelievable egomaniac that lives inside of us. Oh man, this guy. He is the one that tells us we know better than God and that we know better than that other person. He's the one that tells us we could be doing a better job than someone else. I need you to know that raging egomaniac is going to be inside of you until the day you are fully glorified, Romans 8:29 says, until the day you are fully glorified in the presence of God. Until then, that monster must be killed. The egomaniac that is driving your life in a negative and destructive way must be crucified. The life must be taken from him.

This is a good place to tell Billy Graham's story about the Alaskan dogs. Listen if you're an animal lover – give grace, please. A guy in Alaska raises dogs for fighting. And he always wins. He always knows which dog is going to win. And so a young guy comes up and says, "Hey. How do you know which dog is going to always win the fight?" And the old Alaskan says, "Easy, the one I feed. The one I feed wins the fight. The one I starve loses."

Are you feeding the egomaniac? The egomaniac is going to win. You feed the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will win.

So the old life has got to be crucified. How? How you say? We started it last week. It is the foundation for transformation in the Christian life. It's Romans 12:1-2. I have taught it so many times that I'm just going to talk you through it. You write it down again, and listen to it again. Listen to the impactful, life transforming truths of Romans 12:1-2. I'm going to talk you through the verses right now.

ROMANS 12:1 says *I plead with you to present ALL that you are Every area of your life - to God in response to all that he has done for you. Allow your entire life be a living and holy sacrifice the kind that will be acceptable to God Because THIS is truly the way to worship him*

Allow your entire life to be used for the glory of God in everything you do, in every area of your life.

THEN VS 2 SAYS - *Don't BE like the world Don't copy the behavior and customs of the world, instead allow God to transform you into a new person by changing the way you think*

See Christians are actually not supposed to be like the world.

allow God to transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. By renewing your mind. The word means get a renovation, a home makeover. A full renewed mind. Be transformed by allowing God to renew your mind. It's not a magic formula. It's a life of transformation. This is how we do it. We give ourselves to God to be a living and holy sacrifice that our life would glorify him. We refuse to take on the customs and behaviors of the world. Instead we live a transformed life by allowing God to change us by renewing our mind. Because what we set our mind on is where we go. And where we go is what we become. And what we become determines whether we are being used by God or by the enemy and ultimately where we will spend eternity.

It starts with an honest recognition that a flaming egomaniac of Godzilla size lives inside of you and he must die. He must be crucified. Moment by moment, he must be starved. He cannot be fed. There comes repentance; this is the beginning of the starvation. We repent of being controlled by that ego. It's the "ME" that's in you. Quick run! Where are you going to run to? Run here, run to Jesus, run to the cross. Kill that egomaniac.

The transformation, the transformed life is daily starving the flesh and feeding the spirit. Moment by moment, starving the flesh and feeding the spirit. Moment by moment turning from the world's ways and the flesh's ways and choosing the spirit's way. And the moment we choose it, God empowers us to live it.

Can I tell you something right now? Listen carefully, please. The moment you choose to obey God, he gives you the power to obey him. And if you say “Oh, I just can’t” what you really need to say is, “Oh, I’m just choosing not to. I’m just choosing that sin.” Because the creator of all that’s been created, the omnipotent God of heaven, has promised to give you the power to live a new life. But you have to choose it.

So it’s daily choosing to live by the spirit, crucifying the flesh. The source is the Word of God empowered, lit alive by the Holy Spirit and then given to a right relationship with you. See if you’re living in sin and you’re embracing sin, and you’re loving sin, and you’re feeding sin, there is a little bit of a schizophrenia thing going on in your life. You turn from that and instead you feed the spirit, feed the spirit, feed the spirit and your life is transformed. *It’s transformed.*

So if you want to do this, here’s some quick suggestions. Write these down. Whole chapters. Romans 6, Romans 8, Romans 12. I left out Romans Chapter 7. Chapter 7 is the reality of the struggle with your sin. It’s a reality of Paul’s struggle with sin. So read Romans 6 through 8 and then Romans 12. And then meditate. Don’t just read it like the newspaper. Read it like God is speaking to you and respond.

Ephesians Chapters 4 and 5. If you’re familiar you know that’s the “put off, put on” theology of life transformation. And then also read Colossians 3. It’s the same theology re-taught to the Colossians of putting off the old life and walking in the new life. Alright, that’s it.

Here’s how I want to finish today. I want to finish with reading some verses to you. I want to finish by inserting, by giving you the opportunity to receive the pure, unadulterated, uncommented on, transforming power of the Word of God. Now, this is going to be hard because there is going to be no antics and no stories or stupid remarks. It’s going to be all God’s Word coming at you. And so you have to get in this place where you are open to the Holy Spirit, and if you are open to the Holy Spirit some of the things I read will jump out at you. And maybe your heart will pound a little harder or your palms will get sweaty or you’ll think “I hope the person next to me doesn’t realize that’s for me.” Or you’ll get mad at me and leave the church because you’ll think, you know, I’m talking directly at you. I’m not talking directly at you, but the Holy Spirit and the life changing power of God’s Word is talking directly at you.

I haven’t done this in a long time, and I’m begging you right now, to put yourself in a place to hear from God as I share his word with you.

Let me pray for you right now. *Lord please pour your Spirit out on us. Lord, as we go through these next minutes of just looking at and hearing your Word, Holy Spirit convict and encourage, strengthen us where we are weak and break us where we are prideful, Lord. God your Word is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, dividing between bone and marrow and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of our*

hearts; use it on us Lord. This is the most powerful thing we can do right now. Lord please give us spiritual ears to hear and eyes to see. In Jesus' name, amen.

Here we go. Please listen and look for what God would say to you.

Matthew 16:24 (NLT)

... Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.

1 Timothy 2:8 (NLT)

In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy.

2 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters . . . Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.

Romans 12:10–18 (NLT)

Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other . . . Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying . . . Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud . . . And don't think you know it all! . . . Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Romans 15:5 (NLT)

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.

Galatians 5:19–22 (NLT)

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: . . . hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, . . . But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Ephesians 4:29–32 (NLT)

... Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. . . . Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander . . . Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:2–4 (NLT)

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the

Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

Colossians 3:12–17 (NLT)

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you . . . Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful . . . And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

1 Peter 3:8–11 (NLT)

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude . . . “If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies . . . Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then . . . I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith . . .

Philippians 2:1–2 (NLT)

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

And finally one critical verse that summarizes the entire message, God says simply,

Philippians 2:14 (NLT)

Do everything without complaining and arguing

I was talking to a fellow church leader the other day, and he was sharing with me stories of incredible unity and camaraderie that he experienced with a group of people who rode motorcycles together. Dirt bikes. And he told me story after story, back to back, of how this group cared for one another. And how they would do anything for one another. And how they were always there for one another. And then at the tail end of his stories, he said, “Just think if the church was like that. Just think if the church had the unity and the harmony of a group of unbelieving motorcycle riders. Just think if we lived in that level

of harmony like those unbelievers.” Just think what God could do. Think what God could do if we lived like that.

Chuck Swindoll closed his message with this quote. ***“Conquer your attitude – Before you step into service for the Lord. If you do not, you will become part of the problem.”***

Guys the church doesn't need any more disgruntled, self-focused egomaniacs. We are all full. The church needs those who will build up, not tear down. The church needs those who are inspired by what God is doing and are willing to join him, not fight him. And are willing to support those who are serving him not discourage them. That's what the church needs. Just think what God could do.

Let's pray. *Lord I pray you would use that Word in our lives. Lord we need this so badly. We need to understand this so clearly. We need to see when we are being so duped and so used by the enemy. So deceived. And we need to see the extreme level that our attitude has to do with it. Thank you Lord that you are with us. Thank you that you're leading and guiding us and thank you for the angel food from heaven and for the Living Water. Thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit and thank you Jesus that you positionally killed the old man, that he is rendered inoperative because of your work. We pray that you would fill us with your Spirit, convict us and empower us to live in what you died to make us. Empower us to live with Christ-like attitudes. Change us, transform us by the renewing of our minds. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.*