

# Attitude Adjustment: Serving

How many of you have heard the phrase “you need an attitude adjustment”? I know I heard that many times growing up....sometimes at home but very often at school from a couple of teachers.

I’ve thought about that phrase over the years and I’ve come to realize that adjusting your attitude is a critical part of the Christian life. Jesus came to save us, and I’m thankful for that. But He also came to live His life as an example, to model a godly life for us to follow.

Our attitude affects so much of our lives. Your attitude is the difference between joy and sorrow. Your attitude is the difference between love and hate. Your attitude is the difference between being light or darkness.

Your attitude is your feeling, your tendency, your position toward a person or thing. And so often that attitude needs adjusted. It needs to change so that it fits with the new life you have in Christ. It’s a continual thing, constant adjustment of the way you view things.

Today we’re starting a new series called “Attitude Adjustment” based on Philippians 2:5

## **Philippians 2:5-8 (HCSB)**

5 Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus,  
6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.  
7 Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, 8 He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.

Paul says “make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus”. Think about your feelings, tendencies, or position toward people or things, and make them like Jesus’ attitude toward those same people and things.

Sounds easy enough, huh?

Today’s focus is **serv<sup>ing</sup>**.

How do you feel about serving?

What are your tendencies toward serving?

What is your position toward serving?

Now what is Jesus’ attitude toward serving? Make your attitude about serving like His!

The scripture is not a mistake....YOU make YOUR OWN attitude like that of Jesus. You have to make the decision. You have to decide to change. Then the Holy Spirit will do the work in you to make it happen.

So what was Jesus' attitude about serving? How do we make our attitude like His?

## **1. Be willing to serve**

### **Philippians 2:6 (HCSB)**

6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.

Jesus has been God forever. He didn't just start a couple thousand years ago. There was a time where He made the decision, that regardless of his position, His status, He would leave heaven.....giving up the throne...He could have used His power to just change things or to send angels to do His work but instead, He didn't let His position get in the way of Him serving His creation.

Jesus was willing to serve mankind even though He "didn't have to". What about you? Are you willing to serve people even though "you don't have to"?

Do you use your position or status to your own advantage to avoid serving others? Because a leader that isn't willing to serve is not a leader at all. It's just a man or woman with a title....a worthless one at that.

If you are willing to serve, even if you don't have to, you make your attitude like that of Jesus.

### **Hebrews 6:10 (HCSB)**

10 For God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you showed for His name when you served the saints—and you continue to serve them.

Know that the work you do does not go unnoticed. God sees every single thing....and He sees the attitude that is behind it. Make sure it's the willing attitude of Christ!

## **2. Empty yourself**

### **Philippians 2:7 (HCSB)**

Instead He emptied Himself.....

You have to let go of the entitlement mindset. You have to make that choice. Jesus made Himself nothing. He took Himself from the top and put Himself on the bottom. He chose to sacrifice for the sake of serving.

Jesus emptied Himself, why is it that most Christians are full of themselves? They sit in church week after week thinking that they are doing enough, it's everyone else that needs to step it up and do more.

They can list the number of people that do less than them that should step up and do more long before they should be the one to do it. It's wrong.....and it's sin! It's direct disobedience to the verse just before our text today:

**Philippians 2:3 (NKJV)**

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

If you have that kind of mindset, one where you are always worried about what everyone else is NOT doing instead of what YOU are not doing, you need to empty yourself! Maybe someone should be serving in that area....but maybe that someone is YOU!

Are you using your gifts? I'm talking about spiritual gifts but also your gifts of finances, time, abilities, etc. Are you serving in areas of need? You have a responsibility to do so. Jesus did what needed to be done.

Just before He was arrested to eventually go to the cross, when He was eating with the twelve disciples in John 13, He got up and did the unthinkable. Jesus, their teacher, their leader, their Messiah:

**John 13:4-5 (HCSB)**

4 So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself.  
5 Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.

Peter got mad! He told Jesus "You will never wash my feet---ever!" Peter understood that this task was one that was left to the servants. His Master shouldn't have to do this lowly chore!

But Jesus taught by example. He showed them that they were to serve each other without that entitlement attitude, without thinking they are above it and someone else should do it.

To have the attitude of Christ about serving, you have to empty yourself....

**1 Peter 4:10 (HCSB)**

10 Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God.

**3. Change your form**

**Philippians 2:7 (HCSB)**

.....by assuming the form of a slave.....

In this context, assuming means to take, to lay hold of, to claim for yourself. Jesus took up the form of a slave. He took hold of it and claimed it for Himself.....the position of a slave.

He didn't put on a front. It became who He was. He traded His life in heaven for the life of a slave. It was more than an action, it became the core of His being.

This is not a country club.....you don't pay your dues, come when you want, and only do what you want. This is a church, rather....WE are a church. This group is supposed to function as a body with all the parts doing what they are supposed to be doing and we are all servants of the head....Jesus Christ!

This means doing all that He asks of you, even if it's not "your area", even if it's not "your gifting". Sometimes a part of the body just does what needs done because another part can't or isn't doing it!

We have to do more than serve in the areas we like and the areas that come easy to us.

When I was in high school, I remember a few times where the teacher gave a challenging test and they knew the class would struggle, so they put some bonus questions at the end. They were things that you couldn't get wrong like:

1. What is your favorite candy?
2. What is your middle name?
3. Who is your favorite teacher?
4. What class are you in right now?
5. How old are you?

Those were easy! 5 guaranteed points! I liked answering those questions, but how would I have scored if I didn't answer the first 100 questions? I would have failed.

Many Christians are living their life on the 5 easy bonus questions. They do the things that come easy to them. Areas where they are naturally gifted, but they don't do the other 100 things that need to be done and without them, it's not a passing grade. You can't get by only doing what's easy.....

**Matthew 23:11 (HCSB)**

11 The greatest among you will be your servant.

You need to change your form. Don't act like a servant.....BE a servant!

#### **4. Relate to those you serve**

##### **Philippians 2:7 (HCSB)**

.....taking on the likeness of men.

These last 3 tie right into one another, it's not a coincidence that they are all in the same verse. Jesus came to where we are but also became one of us. He entered into our lives. He has been where we are and because of that, He can serve us better.

Sometimes in serving it's not about tasks we are doing and it's more about the people we are doing them with or for. We need to be able to relate to people, empathize with them.

This is where we give of ourselves in serving people's needs. Being there for them if they have a need. Sharing encouragements like we did last week. Giving them testimony of what God has brought us through.

We've got to remember that we are all the same, we all have something in common no matter where we are today.....we are hopeless without Jesus and we are broken without Jesus.

##### **1 Samuel 12:24 (HCSB)**

24 Above all, fear the Lord and worship Him faithfully with all your heart; consider the great things He has done for you.

Remember Jesus has done great things for you, so you can do great things for others, relate to those you serve!

#### **5. Attitude births action**

##### **Philippians 2:7-8 (HCSB)**

.....And when He had come as a man in His external form,  
8 He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—  
even to death on a cross.

Your attitude, how you feel, your tendency or position toward something determines the actions you will take.

Jesus had an attitude of unconditional love for mankind so much that He CHOSE to act upon it in a way that is so selfless that it doesn't even make sense to most people.

Jesus sees people as hurting and broken, overwhelmed by their sin, in need of a Savior, and because of His attitude toward those people, He gave His life so that healing, restoration, forgiveness, freedom, and salvation could be available to all who would receive Him as Lord and Savior!

Even Jesus' attitude began with a choice, the choice to give of Himself. The choice to put His own status and comforts aside for the good of others, to serve.

What about you? What about me? Are we willing to REALLY abandon our own agendas, comforts, to serve Jesus and the people He created?

Are we REALLY willing to serve in response to our love for God and people?

Jesus offers freedom for you today, freedom that came with the price of His very life on the cross. What will you do with that freedom?

**Galatians 5:13 (HCSB)**

13 For you were called to be free, brothers; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.

WORSHIP TEAM

Willing to serve  
Empty yourself  
Change your form  
Relate to others  
Attitude births action

We are called to walk as Jesus walked. This is the path He took toward serving.

Are you and I truly WALKING the same road Jesus did to serve?

It begins with surrender.....today if you have not surrendered your life to God, know that there is a God in heaven who loves you. There is a God who died to pay the price for your sins, then rose to life so that you could have new life.

If you would like to meet Him today, please let Him know. He is waiting for you.

Maybe you have already made this decision to surrender your life. That's great! Have you done it TODAY? We must choose to surrender constantly. It's the only way to empty yourself and fill up with Him. It's the only way to truly change your form.

Will you surrender today? Will you lay down your life and say "Here I am Jesus, use me, send me, wherever you need me, whatever you ask of me, I will serve YOU!"?

Are you ready to make serving about Jesus and not about you? That is the attitude of Christ!