

# THE KNOW SERIES

**Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience**

## LESSON # 32

### CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN HAVING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE



**OBJECTIVE:** The lesson focuses on the topic of attitudes, highlighting the need for a transformation of old attitudes when approaching God. It emphasizes cooperation in the renewal process, explaining that actions are rooted in attitudes. The concept of humility through service is discussed, indicating that humility is best nurtured through selfless service rather than direct pursuit. Serving in hiddenness and relinquishing control are emphasized as ways to discipline the desires of the flesh and grow in humility.

The lesson further explores the idea of submission as a path to true freedom. It explains that self-denial, holding others' interests above one's own, is central to submission and leads to a liberation from self-centeredness.

The teachings of Jesus and the epistles regarding submission are referenced, along with the need to discern the limits of submission while relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Acts of submission encompass devotion to God, following Scripture, interactions with family, neighbors, and the community, including those who are marginalized. The lesson concludes with a call to pray for others and perform secret acts of goodness known only to God.

Throughout the lesson, key biblical passages and teachings are used to illustrate these concepts, encouraging individuals to cultivate attitudes of humility, service, and submission in their lives.



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### (I) ATTITUDES

#### A. Out with the old and in with the new

##### 1. Eph. 4:22-24

a. First, we need to recognize that when we come to God we come with defeated thinking and actions due to wrong old attitudes.

b. Secondly, we need to understand that we are to cooperate with the renewal process. Romans 12:1,2

c. Actions spring from attitudes. That's why Jesus attacked attitudes during His sermon on the Mount.

d. We will begin to work on rearranging our attitude, thus affecting our action.

##### 2. Humility through service

a. Humility is never gained by seeking it. The more we pursue it, the more distant it becomes. Service is the most conducive to the growth of humility.

b. Nothing disciplines the inordinate desires of the flesh like service and nothing transforms the desires of flesh like serving in hidden ness.



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c. The old nature is infatuated with natural human power and abilities without any dependence upon God. 1 John 2:16

d. We must make a daily discipline of service in order to keep our flesh in check, we must also see the difference between choosing to serve and choosing to be a servant.

e. When we choose to serve, we are still in charge. When we become a servant, we give up the right to be in charge.

f. Service is not connected with status. We are all to become servants.

g. Service must have a visible outworking if it is a genuine attitude so this is how it may look in our lives.

1) The service of hiddenness to cultivate tasks of service that remain generally unknown.

2) The service of guarding the reputation of others. Titus 3:2

3) The service of small things like Dorcas. Act. 9:39

4) The service of being served. Peter refused at first to let Jesus wash his feet.

5) The service of common courtesy. Titus 3:2

6) The service of hospitality. 1 Peter 4:9

7) The service of listening. To listen to others quiets and disciplines the mind to listen to God.



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8) The service of bearing the burdens of each other. Gal 6:2

9) The service of sharing the word of life with one another.

### 3. Submission way to true freedom

a. Freedom through the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our way.

b. The touch stone for the biblical understanding is Mark 8:34

1) Self-denial is the lesson, the result is our happiness is not dependent upon getting what we want.

2) Self-denial means to hold others interests above self interest. In this way, self-denial releases us from self pity.

3) Self-denial is the touchstone for the discipline of submission.

### c. Submission as taught by Jesus

1) Phil. 2:8

2) Mark 8:34

3) Mark 9:35

4) John 13:15

### d. Submission as taught in the epistles



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- 1) Eph. 5:21
- 2) Phil. 2:3
- 3) Col. 3:18-22

e. The limits of submission

- 1) Matt. 22:37-39
  - a) 1 Peter 2:13,14 reconciled with Acts 4:19-20 and Acts 5:29
  - b) Romans 13:1 reconciled with Acts 16-37
- 2) When defining the limits of submission we are thrown upon a deep dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

f. The acts of submission

- 1) To the triune God
- 2) To scripture, first to hear, second receive, third to obey.
- 3) To our family. Phil. 2:4
- 4) To our neighbors and those we meet in the course of our daily lives.
- 5) To the believing community, the body of Christ.
- 6) To the broken and despised. James 1:27



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7) To the world. Live as a responsible member of an increasingly irresponsible world.

**Pray for friends, family and co-workers. Do something good this that only God knows about.**



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