



What God Has (And Has Not) Joined Together (11)

Attitude and Action

Our 2026
Theme

Introduction

- Today we continue our theme for 2026, “What God has (and has not) joined together”. This theme is based on **Matthew 19:6**.
- Our last lesson addressed: The Church and Kingdom – **Matthew 16:18-19**.
- Today, we want to address how God has joined together attitude and action.

The problem stated

- There is a sense in which most believers in Jesus and the Bible understand the importance of both attitudes and action.
- Most will advocate, when you have a proper attitude it will lead to proper actions (obedience).
- Even “faith only” and “once saved, always saved” advocates emphasize you need a proper attitude and to obey God.

BUT, there are some misconceptions by some.

Attitude matters to God

- While the Bible never uses that phrase, it is clearly implied from the beginning on.
- **Genesis 3** – Eve and Adam reflected an attitude that led to disobedience (rebellion)
- **Psalm 100:4**, *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*

Attitude matters to God

- Consider the “Sermon on the Mount”
Matthew 5-7
- **Matthew 5:1-12** – The “Beatitudes”
- Contrasting the hyper-interpretation of the LOM motives with underlying motives
 - 5:21-26**, murder/anger
 - 5:27-32**, adultery/lust/MDR
 - 5:33-37** – let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes’
 - 5:43-48** – love your enemies

Attitude matters to God

- Consider the “Sermon on the Mount”
Matthew 5-7
- Contrasting the hyper-interpretation of the LOM motives with underlying motives
 - 6:1-4** - charitable deeds to be seen by men
 - 6:5-15** - prayer to be seen or just to God
 - 6:16-18** – fasting to be seen/internal
 - 7:1-6** – judging with proper motives,
cf. John 7:24
 - 7:24-27** – hearing and doing

Attitude matters to God

- Consider worship – **John 4:24**
- **2 Corinthians 9:7** – giving with a cheerful heart
 - **1 Corinthians 11:26-29** – Lord's supper in a worthy manner
 - **1 Corinthians 14:15** – singing and praying with the spirit and understanding
- **James 1:2-3** – as we face trials

Attitude matters to God

- The HEART of the matter – at the foundation of everything we say and do
- **Proverbs 4:23** – keep your heart with all diligence
- **Matthew 12:34-35** – a good man out of the good treasures of his heart
- **Mathew 22:37-40** – the greatest commandments
- **1 Samuel 16:7** – God doesn't look at appearance.
1 Chronicles 28:9 to Solomon
- **Ephesians 6:6** – sincerity of heart, not with eyeservice...

Actions matters to God

- Obedience is EQUALLY important
- **Romans 6:16-17** – obeyed from the heart...
- **Hebrews 5:9** – Jesus author of salvation to all who obey
- **John 14:15** – *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*
- **Luke 6:46** – Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do...?
- **Psalm 119:30** – *I have chosen the way of truth (faithfulness – ESV, faithful way – LSB). Your judgments have been laid before me.*
- **James 1:22-25** – be doers and not hearers only

Attitudes & Actions matters to God

- When attitudes and actions do not align...
- **Matthew 23:25-28** – *cleanse the inside of the cup... whitewashed tombs...*
- **Isaiah 1:10-17** – God despised their offerings directed toward Him. Why?
- **Acts 5:1-11** – Ananias and Saphira – deceitfully did a good work. They lied to God & the Holy Spirit

Attitudes & Actions matters to God

- Why attitude matters when you act:
- Because we follow the example of Jesus –
**Hebrews 5:8, Philippians 2:5,8;
1 Peter 2:21ff**
- It will affect the degree to which we work –
1 Samuel 15:22-23,
Amos 6:1 – *Woe to those who are at ease in Zion.*
Titus 2:14 - a people zealous for good works

Attitudes & Actions matters to God

- Why attitude matters when you act:
- It will affect how you treat others – Why are you willing to help someone? (Motives)

Ephesians 4:31-32

- It will affect your inner being –
How do you feel about yourself?
What do you do when faced with troubles ?
1 Corinthians 15:10 – *But by the grace of God, I am what I am. **Philippians 2:14-16,***
Psalm 51:6, *Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.*

Attitudes & Actions matters to God

- Summarizing: Actions are about outward obedience; attitudes are about inner obedience.
- Truly God has joined such together -
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,...*

When attitudes and actions don't merge

- There are some beliefs that put obedience and attitudes against each other
- **"As long as I am sincere"** or "God loves me and that is all that matters" - Attitude triumphs actions
- Sincerity IS important - **1 Timothy 1:5**
- BUT, consider Cornelius – **Acts 10:1-2**
- Consider Saul (Paul) – **Acts 26:9, 23:1, Galatians 1:14**
- The "man of God" – **1 Kings 13**
- **Proverbs 14:12** – a way that seems right.
Psalms 139:23-24 – search me...

When attitudes and actions don't merge


- There are some beliefs that put obedience and attitudes against each other
- *"I don't want to do that, but God says I have to"* – Action with improper attitude
- Many will obey, but reluctantly! The body is there but the mind is not!
 - **Malachi 1:10-13** – "Oh what a weariness..."
- **Philippians 3:7-11** – Paul's godly attitude!
- **Philippians 2:5** – consider Jesus, **Hebrews 12:2**
- If serving God is a drudgery, your life will be miserable and likely your efforts will NOT be enough!

When attitudes and actions don't merge

- Some beliefs that put obedience and attitudes against each other
- ***"I have checked all the boxes"*** – Action triumphs attitude
- While not saying it, many live as if they will earn their salvation (entitled to it).
 - **Luke 18:10-12** – The bragging Pharisee
- **Ephesians 2:9** – Not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- **Luke 17:10**, *when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable, we have done what was our duty to do.'*
- **Philippians 2:12** – work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Concluding thoughts

- When it comes to attitudes and actions – which is more important?
- We have seen that BOTH are equally important!
Matthew 23:23
- Consider the song, “None of self, and all of Thee”
- Each verse shows progression in the right direction to where we need to be. Ultimately, His love conquers and we totally surrender to Him – both in action and attitude!



**Does God have the place
in your heart He
deserves?**