



The Christian Solution
for Addictions:
Jesus!

"Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living" Lessons Developed by Pastor Rick McClung



ATTITUDE 1 - Humility

Watch Video: <http://www.tmewcf.org/video.html>

Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3

I admit that I am powerless over the effects of
drugs, alcohol and self-centered behavior—
my life is unmanageable.

HUMILITY — A freedom from arrogance that grows out of the recognition that all we have and are comes from God. Some people are more humble than others but no one is naturally humble.

Since the fall of man in Genesis chapter 3, man has always been about getting what he thinks he deserves. Through the centuries people have made great sums of money on the basis of meeting the needs of others because they know that we are personally attentive to our own comfort.

Most products are advertised to the masses who are interested in self. Celebrities have made millions marketing themselves as if they were a product that would improve the quality of life for someone else. Popularity is an unachievable goal for the majority of humanity. The unpopular tries to identify with the popular in order to achieve some type of fulfillment.

As a Christian, all of my contentment should be in the person of Jesus Christ. In all walks of life there is a great need for people to experience true contentment. We look for it in so many people and things.

- We think that if we can make a certain amount of money we will be content, and when we do, we want more.
- We think if we have just the right person to share our lives with we will be content and we want more.
- We think if we have enough things, toys and just the right place to live we will be content. and when we get some or all of those things we are still [empty].

Many people who are truly saved—born again children of God—suffer from an identity problem. Most of us—if not all of us—at one time or another have suffered the same problem. We think there must be more to the Christian life than just the Christian life.

2 ~ ATTITUDE 1 ~ Humility

NOTES

People suffer from relationship problems, financial problems, health problems, substance abuse problems and a whole slew of other problems because of their identity problem. Following a true conversion experience— when we the Lord to forgive our sins and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior—we are from that day forward God's child.

From that day until the last day, everything in my life stems from who I am in Christ. As we grow in our faith by our continued, intentional desire to do so, we learn that every decision and purpose in life stems from the biblical fact that "I am a child of God."

Humility says that I am no longer my own, but God allows me to seek Him for direction and make decisions. I am no longer the Lord of my life, He is. It's no longer about my will, but His. The attitude of humility is woven through every book of the Bible. There are examples to follow and examples to avoid. There are instructions to follow and very good reasons to follow those instructions.

Matthew 23:25-26 — Jesus said:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

**For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter,
but within they are full of extortion and excess.**

**²⁶Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup
and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."**

In Chapter 22, we read the dialogue Jesus had with the scribes and the Pharisees. In that chapter He was talking TO the scribes and the Pharisees. In Chapter 23 we read of His discourse to others concerning and against the scribes and the Pharisees. He warns His disciples not to imitate their hypocrisy and pride. He exhibits a charge against them for various crimes, corrupting the law, opposing the gospel and deceitfully dealing both with God and man. To each charge he prefixes a "woe."

There are eight "woes" in Chapter 23 and verse 25 being the sixth. In verses 13-16, 23, 25, 27 and 29 He begins with "**Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees...**" In every one of them (with the exception of verse 16) Jesus calls them hypocrites. "Woe" (OUAI) means dreadful, horror, bad. It is just the opposite of what Jesus meant when He proclaimed blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the meek, blessed are the pure in heart, etc. Woe is bad!!!!

Throughout His ministry, Jesus strongly condemned and exposed the hypocrisy of many who opposed Him, especially the scribes and

NOTES

Pharisees. They paraded their charitable deeds, praying and fasting as a theatrical display to win the praise of men (**Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16**). They sought to give the appearance of being godly, but they were actually blind to the truth of God (**Luke 20:19-20**).

Hypocrite — one who puts on a mask and pretends himself to be what he is not. A hypocrite is a stage-player within the Christian life. Hypocrisy is rooted in pride. He impersonates or acts the part of one that he neither is nor may have a desire to be.... We all have a little hypocrisy in us from time to time.

What does Jesus say to them and how can we avoid the same rebuke?

1. Vs. 25 — A wasted effort to a much larger problem.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion (robbery) and excess (lack of self-control)."

1 Samuel 16:7 — But the LORD said unto Samuel, "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

The problem is not the outside, the problem is the inside. If we are not careful, we can cover [hide] the inside and pretend on the outside.

Matthew 15:18 - "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile [pollute, make him unclean] the man."

- When our concern is our heart (the inner man, who I really am), the outward will take care of itself.
- When our concern is our heart, we will be more focused on pleasing God than we are on impressing others.
- When our concern is our heart, it will help us to keep a God focused perspective ... as I see my faults I won't be nearly as critical concerning the faults of others.
- When our concern is our heart, we will work with God as He works with us in overcoming our weaknesses.

2. Vs. 26A - AN ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS.

"Thou blind Pharisee."

"Blindness" indicates ignorance regarding spiritual things.

Ephesians 4:17-18 — "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."

The only solution to spiritual blindness is the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3,4 — "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

3. Vs. 26B - A CLEAR-CUT SOLUTION.

"Cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

John 15:3 — Jesus said: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

- Change begins on the inside.
- Change continues on the inside.
- Change will reveal itself on the outside.

In order that we might be humble and stay humble we might consider the following:

- Be honest about your weaknesses and discipline yourself to focus on them — not the weaknesses of others.
- In this life, there is no arrival in the Christian life; consistent spiritual growth will always help me to stay humble.
- We will always be an example for someone—for good or for bad. Humility will always be a good example.

MISCONCEPTION — as long as I look the part people will think that I am the part.

TRUTH — as long as I will learn the part I become the part and I will live the part. ♥