

Maintenance of Maturity: Mental Attitude

NOTE: No Bible classes Tuesday, 26 November and Thursday, 28 November 1996; Thanksgiving Vacation. The second asset is the proper mental attitude, expressed next by a second prepositional phrase:

en + the instrumental of means from the noun: *agape* - “*by means of virtue love.*”

The only way any believer can consistently perform his duty is with a mental attitude of personal love for God. Personal love for God is the source of developing unconditional love for mankind.

The pastor-teacher must have unconditional love for his congregation before he can effectively perform his duties of studying and teaching. The correct order in the development of virtue love is outlined by our Lord in:

Mark 12:28 - One of the scribes asked Jesus, “What commandment is the foremost of all?”

Mark 12:29 - Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;

Mark 12:30 - And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart [*kardia*: stream of consciousness - Problem Solving Device #7] and with all your soul [*psuche*: essence - volition] and with all your mind [*dianoia*: capacity for knowledge, understanding and recall—wheel-tracks of righteousness] and with all your strength [*ischus*: physical ability—divine good production under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit].’

Mark 12:31 – “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Principle: Personal love for God must precede unconditional love for your fellowman.

Timothy must have a mental attitude which constantly expresses personal love for God otherwise he will be incapable of demonstrating unconditional love toward his congregation through studying and teaching doctrine.

Paul demonstrated this unconditional love in his epistles to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 2:4 - Out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not that you should be made sorrowful but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

Both categories of virtue love are expressed by Paul in a prayer he relates in:

Ephesians 3:14 - I bow my knees before the Father ...

Ephesians 3:16 - ... that He would grant you, according to His riches in glory, to be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in the inner man

Ephesians 3:17 - so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Ephesians 3:18 - may be able to comprehend with all the saints ...

Timothy learned his doctrine from Paul and grew to the status of spiritual maturity by using the seventh and eighth problem-solving devices. He had personal love for God from which emerged an unconditional love for mankind, especially his congregation.

Personal love for God produced an attitude of reverence and respect which oriented him to God's authority expressed in Scripture. Personal love towards God, combined with an understanding of his spiritual gift and its implied duties, produced a desire within Timothy to teach his flock. Timothy has oriented to previously learned doctrines and has developed the mental attitude of virtue love.

The third asset is the proper motivation which is expressed in the final prepositional phrase: *Christos + Iesous* - "which is in *Christ Jesus*."