

Reading: Matthew 5:1-16, 38-48

Topic: The Importance of Proper Behavior Towards People

INTRODUCTION: When one becomes a _____ of Jesus Christ, there are changes that take place in the believer's _____ that should reflect the love of Christ towards others.

I. DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP SKILLS:

A. Secular Training:

1. Major corporations today have recognized the _____ of training their employees who deal with the public in _____ skills and relations.
2. When an individual receives courteous and caring _____ from the employee of a company, very likely they will return to do more business with that business.
3. On the other hand, people who are treated in a discourteous and uncaring _____ by employees of a business are not likely to return, and in addition, research has _____ that the poorly treated customer will likely tell at least _____ other friends and people about their bad experience!

B. Spiritual Training:

1. When it comes to people who become involved in _____ in the work of God, it is vital that those individuals become properly _____ in relationships and people skills as well.
2. Unfortunately, it has happened that visitors to a _____ have had bad experiences from the people who are involved in _____ and from church members themselves.
3. It is essential for people involved in _____ to become the kind of Christian that Jesus taught and exemplified by his _____ and manner during His earthly ministry. Acts 10:38

II. THE TEACHING & EXAMPLE OF JESUS:

A. His Teaching:

1. Jesus was dealing with people who had lived under the old _____ system which taught the principles of an _____ for an _____ and a _____ for a _____. Mt. 5:38
2. Jesus came to teach that things were now going to _____ in His new kingdom, and instead of hate and vengeance, the new principle was going to be _____ towards people. Mt. 5:43-45
3. Jesus pointed out that it is easy to _____ those who _____ you, but the real display of being true followers of Jesus would be the manifestation of _____ to those who are not nice to you. Mt. 5:46-48

B. His Example:

1. Jesus Christ set an example for His disciples to _____ and His ministry was not just in authority and power, but it was bathed in _____ for the people around Him. Mk. 10:21
2. The religious people of Jesus' day were often harsh and _____ for the people, but Jesus ministered from and with _____ for those around Him. Mt. 9:36; Mt. 14:14
3. Even when Jesus was nailed to the cross and was being mocked and jeered at by the _____ around Him, He still _____ them and _____ for them while dying for them. Lk. 23:33,34

III. BECOMING LIKE JESUS IN MINISTRY:

A. Our Carnal Behavior:

1. We are born, not as righteous, but as sinners, and our life and behavior patterns are after the _____ and manifest outwardly as un-Christ-like _____ towards others. Eph. 2:2
2. Some cultures have passed down from generation to generation a very _____ behavior pattern of dealing with other _____, and in some cases even in their own _____.

B. The Nature Of Christ:

1. When we are born again, we must understand that it is the _____ of God for us to change our old behavior patterns and _____ to become like Jesus. 2 Cor. 5:17
2. This _____ will require us to unlearn some of our very negative traits and to develop discipline to change our thinking _____ and behaviors.
3. When we grow in our personal prayer time, spending time with _____ will help us to become like Him and in praying in the Holy Ghost will overcome our _____ nature. Jude 1:20
4. Regularly taking the three essential spiritual vitamins of p_____, the W_____ of G_____ and going to the H_____ of G_____ will develop the nature of Christ in us.

C. Loving & Caring:

1. People will be much more receptive to you when they are approached with _____ and compassion, and as the old saying goes, "People don't _____ about how much you know until they know how much _____ about them." Mt. 7:28,29
2. In medical training, doctors are instructed on doctor/patient relations, and the term used is "_____ manner," referring to giving not just medical _____ but also feelings of caring for the patient.
3. The objective of every individual involved in ministry should be to _____ in love and compassion for the people, even when they mess up, with the goal of _____ them to God. Gal. 6:1
4. Some people will be difficult to _____ and will give you a difficult time, but the Word of God teaches us to try to get along with them in spite of their _____ behavior. Rom. 12:18
5. One of the ways to learn how to have compassion and _____ for those who are difficult is to try to put yourself in their _____ and imagine what they have been through in life to turn out that way.

CONCLUSION: Jesus desires us to emulate Him in this _____ so that people will be touched and feel His love coming through us to those who _____ Him.