

ATTITUDE CHECK

Your circumstances may never change, but your attitude can and that makes all the difference in the world! If you can change your circumstances - great! But if not, you'll need to change your attitude.

I. EXAMINE YOUR ATTITUDE

a. Are you critical or thankful?

- i. It's easy to be critical of others and complain about situations.
- ii. Criticism and negativity will come back to haunt you and you end up being critical of yourself.
- iii. God calls us to be thankful – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- iv. Be thankful in all situations – even the ones that you don't like being in!

b. Are you selfish or selfless?

- i. Are you always looking at situations for "What's in it for me?" or "What can I get?"
- ii. Scripture calls us to look out for the interests of others – Philippians 2:3,4
- iii. Are you looking out for "Number One", or are you looking out for those around you?
- iv. If you're only looking out for yourself, what happens when you're in need?

c. Are you apathetic or passionate?

- i. One of the biggest hurdles to overcome is apathy – a lack of passion.
- ii. In your circumstances, is your attitude one of "I just don't care"?
- iii. I believe that what God is looking for are people who care and are passionate about the world around them.

d. Are you prideful or humble?

- i. When things are going your way, what's your attitude like?

- ii. Do you think that things are going great because of your own strength, talent, or luck?
- iii. God is the One who is in control and He's the One who is at work.
- iv. God is looking for people who are humble and who recognize that He is in control.

II. CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE

a. See others as God sees them

- i. How do you see others? As God does?
- ii. Read John 8:1-11, an example of seeing others through the eyes of Jesus.
- iii. Jesus saw into the heart of the woman caught in adultery and He knew her potential. He didn't condone what she did, but He didn't condemn her either.
- iv. Do you see others as Jesus sees them?
- v. How you see those around you will affect your attitude and ultimately how you treat them!

b. See situations as God sees them

- i. When tough times come, how do you respond?
- ii. When your circumstances get rough, what comes to surface in your life?
- iii. Do you see your circumstances as a God-given opportunity for growth?
- iv. Read Job 42:5 – Job *heard* about God before his trials, but at the end of his trials, he *saw* God.

c. See yourself as God sees you

- i. So many times we are paralyzed by what we see in the mirror of our lives.
- ii. Tough times come and we become paralyzed with self-doubt and fear.

- iii. God sees such incredible potential in each one of us.
- iv. We are an unrepeatable miracle, loved for who we are – not what we do!

d. See the future as God sees it

- i. God sees the future for what it can be – He sees past the tough times.
- ii. Are you apathetic? Do you not see any hope?
- iii. God sees the possibilities of your future.
- iv. Your attitude is your choice. Will it be one that says, *“There’s nothing I can do.”* or *“Things can be different and will be!”*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Rate where you are on the four attitude checks.

<u>Critical</u>	or	<u>Thankful</u>
1	5	10
<u>Selfish</u>	or	<u>Selfless</u>
1	5	10
<u>Apathetic</u>	or	<u>Passionate</u>
1	5	10
<u>Prideful</u>	or	<u>Humble</u>
1	5	10

2. What makes it tough to apply this study?

3. What concepts are found in Philippians 4:6,7 that will guarantee us peace in the midst of tough times?

4. In what areas/situations of your life do you most need an attitude check?

5. What circumstances in your life do you need to turn over to God?

6. What steps can you take in your own life to live beyond your circumstances?