

# ATTITUDE AND COUNTENANCE

## Christian Character in Action: Lesson 15

3 June 2022

Today, we're going to discuss your attitude, and what the look on your face communicates about your attitude. Our face ought to communicate the fact that we truly know the Lord Jesus Christ. The tone of our voice and our manner and approach should make others want to know our Lord as well.

### ATTITUDE

The spirit with which we speak, and the spirit with which we act and approach people.

**1 Pet 2:17** “Honor all men.”

**Honor:** to revere, to respect, to treat with deference (regard or respect) and submission, to dignify, to elevate in rank or station.

Before you treat someone as though they're not very important, remember that Christ died for them.

**1 Pet 2:18** “...not only to the good and the gentle, but also to the froward.” Don't adjust your attitude based on how others treat you. Treat everybody with the same respect.

- Don't address people as what they are. Address them as what they could be if they came to know Jesus Christ.

**Psa 126:5-6** “He that goeth forth and weepeth...” Weep: to express sorrow, grief, or anguish by an outcry. How is your attitude toward the lost? Do you still care that they're going to hell? Does your attitude show that you genuinely want to see people rescued from eternal condemnation?

**Rom 10:1** “My heart's desire and prayer...” Can you honestly say it is your heart's desire to see souls saved?

**Titus 3:3-5** Remember what you were. It will help you put away your “superior” attitude toward lost sinners.

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**COUNTENANCE** What your face says about your attitude.

**Gen 4:5-6** “Cain was very wrath (the effect of anger), and his countenance fell.” An angry countenance has no place in witnessing. You're trying to convince people to receive a loving Savior. How can you do that with an angry face?

**Deut 28:49-50** “Fierce countenance.” Furious, savage, full of rage. That kind of face doesn't match the kindness and love of God. Don't be scary.

- Psa 10:4** A proud countenance. People will not listen to the gospel spoken by a Christian with a haughty, superior look on their face (and usually an attitude to match).
- Don't act like you deserve heaven because you're so good. People will be turned off by that. They'll think you're implying that you're better than them.
- Prov 25:23** **"An angry countenance."** This face may be helpful in disciplining your children, but not witnessing.
- Eccl 7:3** **"The sadness of the countenance."** Sadness can show up on your face. There is a time and a place for it. But if you're always sad, it will hinder your witness. We need to show the world that we have joy in Jesus Christ.
- Prov 15:13** **"A cheerful countenance."** If you have a happy heart, it will be evident. People will see it in on your face. It may even cause them to ask the reason of the hope that is in you (1 Pet 3:15).
- Prov 27:17** **"A man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."** We can help each other through fellowship to smooth out the rough edges so that our countenance displays the image of a contented, satisfied, victorious Christian. Be the one who puts a smile on someone's face.
- 2 Cor 3:7-8** **A glorious countenance.** You don't need to wear a religious costume to identify yourself as a Christian. Your countenance ought to reveal a difference between you and a lost person.
- 2 Cor 4:6-7** **"The face of Jesus Christ."** The world can't see Jesus unless they see Him in the face of a person that He lives in. People will more likely listen to the gospel if they see something different about you.
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If you think it seems carnal to practice displaying the right countenance to the world so people will listen to the gospel, remember that Jesus said, **"the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light"** (Luke 16:8). Advertisers use attitude and countenance to get people interested in a product. We have something better.