

“The Attitude of a Christian”

2 Tim. 1:7

Introduction

- I. The life of a Christian can often times be difficult (2 Tim. 3:12; 2:12).
- II. With such difficulties, it might become tempting to give in to fear.
 - A. A faithful child of God must remember that God does not want us to be fearful (2 Tim. 1:7; Phil. 1:14; Heb. 13:6; 1 John 4:18).
 - B. A person consumed by fear is a lost person (Rev. 21:8).
- III. Christians should replace fear with things that allow for a more positive attitude.
 - A. Christians should portray “the spirit...of power.”
 - B. Christians should portray “the spirit...of love.”
 - C. Christians should portray “the spirit...of a sound mind.”

Discussion

- I. Christians should portray “the spirit...of power.”
 - A. Some might argue that the power mentioned in 2 Timothy 1:7 is a miraculous power given by The Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Perhaps the thinking is that it must be connected to the “gift” mentioned by Paul in verse 6.
 - 2. Then, Paul referred to that “gift” again in verse 14.
 - B. While I will readily admit that the term “power” is used in more than one passage to indicate the miraculous abilities given by The Holy Spirit, I am not convinced that is what Paul meant here. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).
 - C. Love and a sound mind are not a miraculous abilities.
 - 1. These two are connected with “power” in the context.
 - 2. All three deal with an attitude or “spirit” that is to be conveyed, not a miraculous ability.
 - D. Christians can demonstrate a powerful attitude without miraculous abilities, and without being arrogant/highminded.
 - 1. We are on the side of God, and nothing is too much for Him (Rom. 8:31, 37; Mark 10:27).
 - 2. We have obeyed “the power of God unto salvation”/the Gospel (Rom. 1:16).
 - 3. Therefore, we can have boldness and confidence (Phil. 1:14; Heb. 4:16; 13:6; 2 Tim. 1:12; Eph. 3:1; 1 John 4:17).
- II. Christians should portray “the spirit...of love.”
 - A. It would be hard to imagine the love that Jesus showed, and then to think that a “Christian” could be excluded from doing likewise.
 - B. Jesus taught the importance of his followers having “the spirit...of love” for one another (John 13:34-35; 15:12-13, 17; 1 John 4:10-11, 20-21).
 - C. It is also important that Christians have “the spirit...of love” toward the lost (John 3:16).
 - D. Above all else, “the spirit...of love” must be shown to God (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10).
- III. Christians should portray “the spirit...of a sound mind.”
 - A. The ASV translates “sound mind” as discipline.

- B. Christians should not be individuals that display a lack of self-control/discipline.
 - 1. One of the “Christian Graces” is that of temperance/self-control (2 Pet. 1:6).
 - 2. It is also a part of the fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)
- C. Christians should strengthen their minds so that error and confusion are handled effectively (2 Tim. 2:15-18; 1 Tim. 4:7-8; 6:20-21; Titus 1:10-14).
- D. When Christians allow themselves to be manipulated and led astray, they are not exhibiting “the spirit...of a sound mind” (1 Pet. 3:15; Heb. 3:12-4:1).

Conclusion

- I. Fearful of the things of men is not the attitude that a Christian should portray.
- II. Instead, a Christian can live a confident, loving and disciplined life because he knows that in the end, there is really nothing to fear (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).