



Our Attitude It Will Make Or Break Us

by Joey Ellis

Ministry Development Coordinator for the National Children's Ministries Agency

Feel that our attitude is the single most important ingredient in our leadership effectiveness. Many times it will determine whether or not we accomplish what God has intended for us to accomplish. Regardless of the situation, we always have control of where we allow our attitude to travel. Our attitude will cause us to soar with the eagles or waddle with the ducks. It will cause us to rise to the occasion or fall at every opportunity.

Paul says, "Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

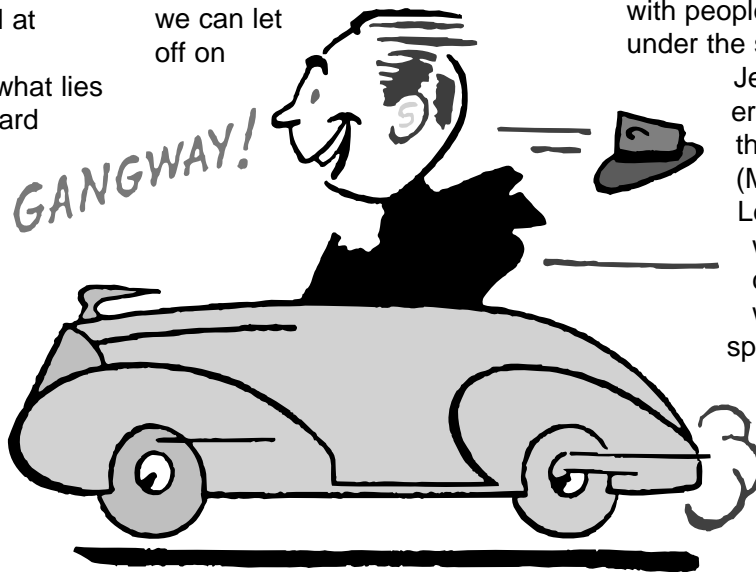
Paul had an uncommonly positive attitude about his faith. He realized that it was not what happens *to* him that was important, but what happens *in* him. We have little control over our circumstances or the actions of others, but we can control our reactions to them. Always remember Galatians 6:7 says, "Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."

Our Attitude Will Determine Our Outlook on Life

We can become imprisoned in the cell of a negative attitude or we can free ourselves and break loose with an uncommonly posi-

tive attitude by looking ahead and seeing what lies before us.

I remember my Pastor in Orlando, Carl Stephens, saying, "No one makes us mad but us." He used the illustration of driving in traffic. All of a sudden someone cuts us off and races on ahead of us. We have a choice to make. We can get mad, raise our voices, and shake our fist in his direction. Or, we can let off on



the accelerator a little, thank God he didn't hit us, and allow him to have his wreck somewhere else. If we get mad, we chose to get mad. If we remain calm, we chose to remain calm. No one controls our attitude but us.

Victor Frankel, survivor of a Nazi death camp said, "The last of the human freedoms is to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances."

Our outlook on life will be

determined by our attitude.

Our Attitude Determines Our Relationships With Other People

Theodore Roosevelt said, "The most important single ingredient to the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people."

John D. Rockefeller said, "I will pay more for the ability to deal with people than any other ability under the sun."

Jesus said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12).

Let's be honest—who would you rather associate with, someone with a negative, critical spirit or someone with a positive, uplifting spirit? Carla and I are teaching our kids that in order to have friends, they must be a friend to someone first. If we want positive people around us, we

must display a positive attitude first.

The children and adults in our churches need to see us displaying a positive attitude. They play a very simple game that we all played as kids: "Follow the Leader." Let's give our folks the very best. Let's be able to say what Paul said, "Follow me, as I follow Christ," 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Questions For Further Study—

1. Which of these do you have control over—the actions of others or your reaction to them?
2. What situations tend to spark a negative attitude in you?
3. How might you respond more positively in those situations?