

Attitude

Staying Positive In A Negative World

Staying positive in a negative world is a battle. A tug of war. A daily struggle to keep our heads above the sea of negativity surrounding us.

Motivational speaker and author Zig Ziglar believes negative thinking is “stinkin’ thinkin’.” Ziglar states “Stinkin’ thinkin’ can cause hardening of the attitudes.”

John Maxwell teaches that “Your attitude determines your altitude in life.”

Observations About Human Behavior

- It is easy to be negative, harder to be positive.
- Our sinful nature leans toward negativity.
- Being negative appears natural and acceptable.
- We tend to believe the worst before we believe the best. (Kadesh Barnea)
- Negativity can be stirred up in a hurry.
- Negative Neds and Nellies have a way of finding each other. They recruit too!
- Depression is fueled by negative thoughts and emotions.
- Negativity takes a toll on relationships.

Leadership Fact: It takes ten positive people on a board or committee to overcome one negative thinker.

Someone said “Positive anything is better than negative nothing.”

I. Man’s World Is NEGATIVE

A. BAD NEWS!!!

B. The world’s attitude is pessimistic, critical, demeaning, belittling,
tear down, discouraging, disparaging, despairing, and destructive.

C. Eternal death

- Negativity started with Adam and Eve (Thank you first parents!)
- Flesh verses Spirit in Galatians 5:16-18
- Deeds of the flesh...NEGATIVE! Galatians 5:19-21
- Dysfunctional families are negative.
- Media Obsessed with what I call “sick negative sensationalism”.
- Politics Who can get down and dirty first and most.
- Workplace can be negative (Don’t hire Neds and Nellies!)
- Church/ministry can be negative. (Shameful and ministry hindering)

Illustration: Grandpa and Limburger cheese. The whole world stinks!

Discussion What do you feel like when you are negative?
How does your negative attitude affect the people around you?

II. God's Kingdom Is POSITIVE

A. GOOD NEWS!!!

B. The Kingdom's attitude hopes, believes, encourages, inspires, creates,
redeems, cheers, builds up, and looks forward to a positive future.

C. Eternal life.

- Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Fruit of the Spirit...POSITIVE!
- Christlike attitude and action.

Discussion What do you feel like when you are positive?
How does your positive attitude affect the people around
you?

Our Challenge as Christians: Live victoriously and productively in this negative world while we wait for Jesus to return and take us to our heavenly home.

Our Response: Be transformed, not conformed.

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good, acceptable and perfect."

Romans 12:1-2

Illustration: Shoe salesman: Nobody wears shoes here, send as many as you can!

Three Truths About Attitude And Life

1. We Are What We Think

Review Thinking Right Thoughts handout

"For as a man thinks within himself, so he is." Proverbs 23:7

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

II Corinthians 10:3-5

- Positive thinking verses negative thinking
- Tear down negative spiritual, mental, emotional strongholds.
- Capture, don't be captured, by thoughts.

* The right train of thought can lead you to a better station in life.

2. We Have What We Say

Review Watch Your Words handout

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat of its fruit.”

Proverbs 18:21

“And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God.” Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, “Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him.

Mark 11:22-24

- Positive self-talk verses negative self talk. (Major battleground)
- Positive words verses negative words.
- Speak words of positive faith.
- Don't talk about your mountain, talk to your mountain.

3. We Choose What We Do

“But as for me” throughout scripture.
(i.e. Joshua 24:15).

- Positive or negative character and conduct.

When an optimist gets the worst of it, he makes the best of it!

“The me I see will be the me I will be.” Robert Schuler

It Is A Fact: How we think, what we say, and what we do makes us either positive or negative.

Twelve Step Strategy For Staying Positive

1. Embrace the positive, eject the negative.
2. Release negative family background.
3. Think positive thoughts.
4. Speak positive words.
5. Take positive action.
6. Associate with positive people. RUN FROM NEGATIVE PEOPLE!
7. Memorize and meditate on God's Word.
8. Pray positive prayers.
9. Walk in the positive power of the Holy Spirit.
10. Turn negatives into positives.
11. Inspire people to be positive.
12. Leave a legacy of a positive Christian life.

The Apostle Paul sums up positive attitude best:

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, what is of good report, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.” Philippians 4:8

Conclusion: A negative world has lost its way believing bad news. Positive Christians who have good news can help the lost find their way to eternity in heaven.

STAY POSITIVE FOR CHRIST IN A NEGATIVE WORLD!!!

Steve Roll
Restoration Ministries
srrestore.org