

The Attitude of a Believer

1 Corinthians 15:9-11

1 Corinthians 15:9-11 (NASB)

⁹ “For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

¹¹ Whether then *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

The apostle Paul had a certain mindset that Christians are wise to emulate (1 Corinthians 11:1). In him, we recognize an attitude of:

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NASB)

¹ “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

Humility. Pride cannot hide in the heart of a believer who understands divine mercy. Paul spread the gospel because he believed the grace that was sufficient to save a sinner like him was adequate for anyone.

Indebtedness. The apostle never lost sight of how far the Father’s grace had brought him. Paul frequently reminded followers of his role in persecuting the church (1 Timothy 1:13), and his gratitude for salvation from that former life never waned.

1 Timothy 1:13 (NASB)

¹³ “Even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief.”

The book of Acts records the almost constant turmoil and heartache of his travels, and yet he continued to praise the Lord for the privilege of serving.

Dependence. To describe the source of his strength, Paul used these words: “By the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Corinthians 15:10).

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”

He knew what it was like to depend upon one’s own goodness and work to be religious—and he wanted no part of it. Paul desired more of Jesus Christ and none of himself (Philippians 3:8).

Philippians 3:8 (NASB)

⁸ “More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.”

Conviction. At the end of his life, Paul was as confident as ever that God was real, in charge, and worthy of all honor, glory, and praise (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NASB)

⁶ “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure

has come.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Do you see these attitudes in yourself? If not, borrow a page from the apostle Paul’s “playbook.” Praise the Lord for all that He has done for you, and then get busy working—in *His* strength—for His kingdom. Do not allow His grace to be poured out on your life in vain ([1 Corinthians 15:10](#)).

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”