

# “A New Attitude”

New #3

## INTRODUCTION

As Christians, our spiritual journey does not end with our acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior, instead we expect that we are being changed and transformed into His image every day of our lives. One very important aspect of that change is our attitude. We need to exchange our human mindset for God’s mindset. In this study we seek to understand what that attitude of Christ is, and what we can do to embrace it.

**Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)** Do you tend to see the glass “half full” or “half empty”?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### Human Mindset vs God’s Mindset

#### Q1. Read Isaiah 55:8-9, Matthew 16:21-25

Isaiah 55:8-9 gives us some perspective on the difference between God’s mindset and our own. Perhaps the clearest example of this is in Matthew 16:21-25. What was Peter’s response when Jesus told them what must happen to Him? Peter addressed Jesus as “Lord”, however he proceeded to contradict what Jesus clearly stated must happen. How do you recognize, in your own life, when God is trying to change your mindset to His? What helps you deal with the challenges of making that change from your own will to God’s will?

### Jesus is the Perfect Prototype

#### Q2. Read Philippians 2:3-8, 1 John 2:6

If we are honest with ourselves, we know our natural tendencies do not reflect the attitude of God. How did Paul describe that attitude as Christ exemplified it (see Philippians 2:3-8)? Why is humbling yourself an important part of the process of having the mind of Christ?

### The Cross: The Only Way to a God-Orientation

#### Q3. Read Colossians 2:20; 3:1-17

Take an extended period of time to discuss this passage. Consider those things we are to put to death or rid ourselves of as well as the virtues we are commanded to display. Which list do you find most difficult? In view of Col 2:20; 3:3 and 3:5, what must happen before we can put on the new person of Christ? What are some specific actions we can take to be proactive in partnering with the Lord and His grace so that you can grow more in His likeness?

## Baptism Demonstrates Identifying With Christ

### Q4 Read Romans 6:4-7, Ephesians 4:4-6; 22:24

Baptism is a public demonstration of our willingness to die to ourselves and surrender our lives to God. Romans 6:4 tells us baptism demonstrates that we are buried with Christ and raised to new life. What does verse 6 give as the reason the old self was crucified? How does the declaration of Ephesians 4:4–6 explain our connection with God through baptism?

## In the Kingdom, Down is Up

### Q5 Read 1 Peter 5:5-6; Romans 8:6, 13, 14

As we exchange our natural attitudes for God’s new attitude many of our previously held beliefs will be challenged. In this world we strive to accomplish, attain and advance. But this is not the case in God’s Kingdom. What is the attitude we are called to in 1 Peter 5:5? In what way does this attitude demonstrate that you have the mind of Christ? Looking at Romans 8:13, what is it that helps you to humble yourself when you might not naturally do so?

## WRAP-UP

When we are born-again we receive new life, and we can break free from the power of ungodly attitudes and embrace God’s mindset. Jesus demonstrated for us what it meant to have that attitude of humility and service, acting only as God directed him. The only way we can truly change is to die to ourselves, as demonstrated through baptism, and live humbly with our focus on God’s kingdom, not this world.

## Memory Verse

*If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—*

*Colossians 2:20 ESV*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) \_\_\_\_\_

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*Challenge:* Challenge yourself to “put to death” one thing in your life (attitude, behavior, thought) and put on something new and beautiful of Christ.

**Q1**

Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV - 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Read Matthew 16:21-25 in your Bible

## Q2

Philippians 2:3-8 ESV - 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

1 John 2:6 ESV - 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

**Q3**

Colossians 2:20 ESV - 20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—

Read Colossians 3:1-17 in your Bible

## Q4

Romans 6:4-7 NIV - 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Ephesians 4:4-6, 22-24 NIV - 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ... 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

**Q5**

1 Peter 5:5-6 NIV - 5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Romans 8:6, 13-14 ESV - 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ... 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Prayer requests con't \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.