

Attitudes Of A Mature Child Of God

Text: [Romans 12:1-21](#)

Introduction

In the town of Stepanavan, Armenia, there is a woman who is known as, "Palasan's Wife." When the devastating earthquake of 1988 hit Armenia, it was about noon and Palasan was at work. He rushed to the local grade school where his son was a student, entered the crumbling building and began taking children outside to safety. After rescuing twenty-eight children, an aftershock hit, totally destroying the remaining portion of the school and killing Palasan. Today, the people honor his memory, and that of his young widow, by calling her, "Palasan's wife."

The highest honor we can achieve is to be identified as "God's child"

[1 John 3:1](#) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

One way we demonstrate our sonship is through our Christ-like attitudes. Paul, in [Romans 12](#), identifies several attitudes that will identify us as "mature" children of God.

1. The Child of God's Attitude Toward His Body

[Romans 12:1](#) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your **bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Biblical Help To Be Good Stewards Of Our Physical Bodies

- A steward is defined as one who is entrusted with the care and management of another's affairs or property, and has the responsibility to be trustworthy with these possessions.

[1 Cor. 6:13](#) The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but **for the Lord**, and the Lord for the body.

[1 Cor. 6:15](#) Do you not know that your **bodies** are **members of Christ**? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

[1 Cor. 6:18](#) Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the **body**, but the sexually immoral person sins against **his own body**.

[1 Cor. 6:20](#) for you were **bought with a price**. So glorify God in your **body**.

[Romans 6:12](#) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions

2. The Child of God's Attitude Toward The World

[Romans 12:2](#) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Do Not Be Like This World

- Our world is a place of fashion, popularity, and wealth among other things.
- "to keep up with the Joneses" is to follow the world and its values
- Over and over again we hear scripture telling us to "come out of the world"

[2 Cor. 6:16-18](#) What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

Be Like God

- Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.
- Our minds need to be like God's and Christ's

[Colossians 3:12-21](#)

3. The Child of God's Attitude Toward Himself

[Romans 12:3](#) For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of **himself** more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

What Does Our Attitude Need To Be For Ourselves?

- Understand that we are sinners in need of God's Grace [Romans 3:23](#); [Eph. 2:1-10](#)
- We need to save ourselves through obedient faith. [Acts 2 :36-41](#)
- We must have a correct love for ourselves, to have a correct love for others [Mt. 22:39](#)
- We must be unselfish [Philippians 2:5-11](#)
- We must pursue things that are good for ourselves **and** others:

[1 Thess. 5:14](#) And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

4. The Child of God's Attitude Toward Others

[Romans 12:4-5](#) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (also [v. 9-21](#))

What Does Our Attitude Need To Be For Brethren?

- We must love the brethren [Romans 12:9-10](#)
- We must be hospitable toward brethren. [Romans 12:13](#)
- We must care for the emotions of brethren. [Romans 12:15](#) (rejoice/weep)

What Does Our Attitude Need To Be For Non-Brethren (Or Enemy)?

- We must bless non-brethren [Romans 12:14](#)
- Be at peace if at all possible [Romans 12:18](#)
- Don't be vindictive [Romans 12:19-21](#)

What Does Our Attitude Need To Be About our Abilities? [Romans 12:6-8](#)

- Use them to bring glory to God and to serve the church and minister to others
- [1 Peter 4:10-11](#) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.