

The Power Of Appreciation

“Thank you, nice job, great work, good try” – these words sounds wonderful, when directed towards us they make us feel good.

We can make others have that *“warm feel-good experience.”*

Why is it so difficult for most people to express true appreciation?

Why are so many *“without natural affection”* towards other people?

2 Timothy 3:1-5 [King James] *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, unholy, **without natural affection**, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”*

Paul tells us the reason for this lack of natural affection is due to loving pleasure more than the Creator God who gave us life and sustains our life, or having a ritualistic form of worship without the active presence of the Holy Spirit.

Expressing sincere appreciation is a powerful motivating force and can even inspire greater spiritual growth in a person.

The dictionary defines appreciation as *“sensitive awareness.”*

The place to begin learning to show real appreciation is in our personal relationship with our Creator God.

How sensitively aware are you of God’s loving concern for you?

The Creator God is the most positive Being in the universe, cheering us on to qualify for a place in His created family [Kingdom].

Does our Creator God receive the thanks and praise He deserves from us?

James 1:17 [New King James] *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

The Creator God is the greatest giver in the universe.

The Triune God even gave of Himself.

Philippians 2:5-8 [New King James] *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*

Being equal to God the Father as one Person of the Triune God humbled Himself to become a human being who could shed His life blood to redeem us from deserved death, [**Romans 6:23; Romans 3:23**].

Romans 5:8 [NIV] *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

This great gift was given even while we were in our human weakness still giving in to sin.

Without this awareness, without a deep appreciation of what the Triune God is doing for us, we cannot express proper appreciation to other human beings.

Living – a way of giving –

Satan is determined to destroy all potential for oneness between you and the Triune God, [1 Peter 5:8].

This fiendish goal has driven Satan to broadcast his message of deception to all humanity, [2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2].

Part of this deception is the idea that we are self-sufficient, complete, in need of nothing, no need of a Creator God!

Genesis 3:1-5 [New King James] *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”*

This was the basic idea that Satan deceived Eve with to rebel against the very Being who had given her life, the Creator God.

Today the same deceptive message, which is exactly opposite to the truth, is evolution which tells us we don’t need a Creator God.

[Please download and study all the articles on this website that are under the main heading ‘*Evolution – The Delusion Of,*’ you will be eternally glad you did.]

Of course the exact opposite is true, we need our Creator God in our life, we also need other human beings.

1 John 4:12 [New King James] *“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”*

Our showing love and appreciation to human beings is proof that the very character of God, [1 John 4:8, 16] is being formed in us.

Does the Creator God see strong, caring relationships with other humans being built in our lives?

Does the Creator God see you nourishing those around you with sincere admiration and thankfulness?

If the Creator God does see this in our lives, it proves we are responding to His message and not that of Satan.

Acts 20:35 [New King James] *“I have shown you in every way, by labouring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*

God wants us to believe and practice this giving to others.

Of course, it is crucial that we have something of value to give, and with the help of the Creator God we can.

When you express your appreciation to another person, you are giving to them something very important, make sure you are **not** carelessly withholding it, [**Proverbs 12:25; Proverbs 16:24**].

Hebrews 10:24-25 [New King James] *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

The same message is given by Paul to the Church in Thessalonica and all true Christians.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 [New King James] *“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”*

To comfort by showing love and appreciation can lead to “edify” and in context it is referring to “salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,” [**verse 9**].

Philippians 4:8 [New King James] *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is **anything praiseworthy**, meditate on these things.”*

Paul lists things that we should have on our minds.

Notice “*anything praiseworthy*”. In **verse 9** Paul instructs us to follow his example, we can see such an example in his letter to the Church in Thessalonica.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 [NIV] *“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.”*

Paul not only complimented them on their past behaviour but expressed confidence in their future yieldedness to the Creator God. Paul knew that such honest praise would greatly encourage them to work and yield even more.

You can have the same ability to inspire other people.

Do not forget that unexpressed appreciation is powerless!

Philippians 2:3-4 [New King James] *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

New habits such as above are not established easily, you will have to work at becoming aware of situations where showing appreciation is possible and desirable, so exercising the giving attitude of the Triune God.

Nowhere is your application more powerful than with young people.

They need to know you notice and appreciate their efforts to do what is right. It is like food to their growth and development in character.

When the Kingdom of God is established on earth, at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, true Christians will be teaching those who have never heard of Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord, nor His Word, the Christian Bible, [**Revelation 20:4-6, 11-13**]. Are you ready to do this?

Are you learning to inspire and encourage people to change the way they think and act, to harmonise with the very mind of their King, Jesus Christ, [**Philippians 2:5-8**] a person who was willing to humble Himself in order to serve others, [**Matthew 20:28**]?

How do we do this, make this great change from self to service?

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning the whole life, physical body, mind and “*human*” spirit, [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Our mind then will be re-educated by the Holy Spirit to be in harmony with that of the Triune God, [**Galatians 5:22-25**] filled with the same characteristics, “*fruits*”.