

P.E.O.P.L.E.
OPTIMISTIC
EPHESIANS 4:20-32

INTRODUCTION:

1. Rosa Crawford
2. Review

Pray for others

Explain the Word of God – authoritative, practical
Optimism

3. Why do we need to have a positive attitude as we minister to people?

I. THE BIBLE TELLS US TO BE POSITIVE

A. Colossians 3:2, “Set your minds on what is above.”

B. Philippians 4:8, “Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable – if there is any more excellence and if there is any praise – dwell on these things.”

C. 1 Peter 1:6-9

D. 2 Peter 1:5-7

E. Galatians 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self control.”

II. YOU REPRESENT JESUS CHRIST

A. v.21, “assuming you heard Him and were taught by Him, because the truth is in Jesus.”

B. The most positive word in the Bible is “Jesus.”

C. You represent a positive God.

D. His reputation is at stake.

III. YOU ARE A CHANGED PERSON

A. v.22-24 old man vs. new man.

B. You have the power to have a positive attitude

C. V.23, "You are being renewed in the spirit."

D. The change was caused by God – v.24, "created according to God's likeness."

E. If you are changed, the world needs to see a changed person.

F. "I have to change before I come to Christ." "I'm not worthy enough."

G. Christ first, then change.

H. Paul gives a balance, "take off vs. put on."

I. Scissors – one blade

J. When you say yes to Christ, you are saying no to Satan.

K. Billy Graham, "One of the fruits of the Spirit is joy. You might not be able to work up joy yourself, but God the Holy Spirit living inside of you can produce this joy supernaturally, and a Christian is to have joy. That's one of the great characteristics of the Christian is the joy that we have, and if you don't have this joy and if you don't have this peace that Christ gives, you had better search your heart and find out if you really know Christ."

IV. TO PROTECT YOURSELF

A. v.27, “don’t give the Devil an opportunity.”

B. A critical, negative attitude opens the door for Satan to come in and lead you astray.

C. Hebrews 12:15, “See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and by it, defiling many.”

V. TO EFFECTIVELY MINISTER TO OTHERS

A. v.29, “No rotten talk should come from your mouth, but only what is good for the building up of someone in need, in order to give grace to those who hear.”

B. My job is to encourage others.

C. I can’t do that if there is rotten talk coming from my mouth.

D. “Rotten” – rotten vegetables, fruit.

E. What is “rotten talk?”

F. Vs.31 – bitterness, anger, wrath, insult (Ill. of two women at church, “I think he preaches better here than at the old building”) slander.

G. He says a negative attitude grieves the Holy Spirit.

H. Grieving the H.S. leads to quenching the H.S. (1 Thess. 5:19).

I. “Quench” – extinguish the fire.

1. Believers become discouraged.

2. Unbelievers are repelled away.

CONCLUSION:

1. A bad attitude is a sign of ingratitude.

2. Cassie Bernall – 17, Littleton, CO “Yes, I believe in God.”
According to the Boston Globe, on the night of her death, Cassie’s brother found a poem Cassie had written just two days prior to her death. It read:

“Now I have given up on everything else
I have found it to be the only way
To really know Christ and to experience
The mighty power that brought
Him back to life again, and to find
Out what it means to suffer and to
Die with him. So, whatever it takes
I will be one who lives in the fresh
Newness of life of those who are
Alive from the dead.”