

## Beware of the “tude” Disease

### Sermon Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9

Before I began the sermon this morning I need to announce that there is a dangerous disease that is going around. You need to be very careful, because this disease can be fatal---and even though it is not be fatal its effects can ruin your life---it isolates you and make you miserable as long as you have it.

This disease is worse in United States than in the poorer countries where we would think such a serious disease as this which can incapacitate you-----would no longer exist—with all our modern technology---but that is not the case.

You need to be very careful---because this disease can sneak up on you and you will have it before you realize it. It is very difficult to get rid of once you get it.

As far as I know none of the doctor offices in town have a vaccination to prevent this disease.

I have to tell you that some people here in the church that have already caught this disease----it tends to run in groups.

Symptoms of this disease brings on moping----and a running off at the mouth. I have seen and heard such things as

“We don’t like our Sunday School room”

“That’s another incident that **our** group is being slighted”

“How come we don’t get one of those”

“Why do we have to do that”

This disease sometimes affects individuals and it sometimes it is caught by whole groups.

I think this disease comes from living in a “me” oriented society. People tend to think about what they believe they deserve instead of what their responsibilities are.

We see so much of this in our society that it tends to just jump out and get you before you realize it---one of the dangers of this disease is that you can see it in others---without realizing that you yourself have it---somewhat like cancer----it is dangerous because you don’t realize that you have this disease----think it only affects others.

The result of this is that it don’t get treated and it just keeps getting worse and worse until it has a strangle hold on your whole life.

Now Christians don’t normally catch this disease, they have a built in immunity from exposure to Jesus----but with so much exposure from the people and groups around it seems to have crept over into Christians also.

This disease saps the strength out of people and groups of people. It can take a normally active, alive, happy, joyful person and turn them into a complaining, gloomy, depressed, dishearten, dejected, dying person. It is a very dangerous disease.

It can bring you to the point like this man—he was very critical---he had a conscientious wife who tried very hard to please her husband, but failed regularly. He always seemed the most cantankerous at breakfast. If the eggs were scrambled, he wanted them poached; if they were poached, he wanted them scrambled. One morning, with what she thought was a stroke of genius, the wife poached one egg and scrambled the other and placed the plate before him. Anxiously she awaited with what surely this time would be his unqualified approval. He peered down at the plate and snorted, "Can't you do anything right, woman? You've scrambled the wrong one!"

There are steps that can be taken to prevent this disease----you can take these steps to keep from getting it or----they will even cure this disease if you already have it.

**Read Philippians 4:4-9**

The human mind will always set itself on something, and Paul wished to be quite sure that the Philippians would set their minds on the right things. It is a law of life that if a person thinks of something often enough and long enough it will either enhance their life or ruin their life.

It's like walking over the same path again and again---until you wear a rut---that is difficult if not impossible to get out of. If we are going to wear a rut in our thinking----let it be a rut of thanksgiving and praise----not a rut of ingratitude-----not a rut of the "tude"

Like thinking of things of the past----how they were done---and that is the only way to do them----it is not that they were wrong---or right---but that to minister in today's world we must speak in a way that people understand and will respond.

It's like our mode of transportation----days yesteryear it was done by horse and buggy-----was it wrong----no!----how many of you would be willing to sell your car and operate with a horse and buggy??

**End this message with a time of giving thanks and praise-----have people speak up and say what they are thankful for-----a word of praise----not a word of complaint----**

If we follow the words of Philippians 4-----and think on these things there won't be time to grip and complain----and which do you suppose is the Christian attitude.

Let us began this very hour to start a rut of thanksgiving, praise and joy that radiates out from your life.

Are we serious about Evangelism? Do you really want to be a good witness for Jesus Christ-----

Then be serious about your attitude---Not a serious attitude-but be mindful of your attitude----because that is where people are brought to Jesus Christ.