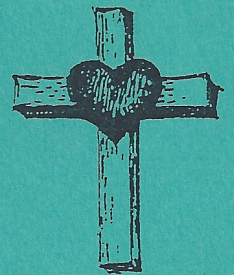


COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

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STUDENT CORNER:

ATTITUDE

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than the facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is *we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.* We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the string that we have, and that is our attitude....I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitudes.

- Charles Swindoll

Charles Swindoll has a great point to make about attitude. I consider his sentiments a "classic" because this passage has been presented to me on three separate occasions in my lifetime. My Grandmother first read this quote to me when I was in junior high. My freshman year at UAF, a good friend in Christ and study partner, Will Finley, gave me a copy of this excerpt. Then last summer, my boss gave all of the supervisors a copy to post on our desks. I can honestly say that I read it every day.

I found this last copy over Christmas vacation while I was going through some old papers. I thought it was perfect for this time of year. If you re-read the passage you will see a possible New Year's resolution nestled in the text: "...We have a choice every day regarding the attitude that we will embrace for that day."

Did you make any New Year's resolutions for 1998? By the end of January, will you be able to say that you have kept these promises to yourself? Would your results be any different if you had asked God for his will and help in these matters? Let me explain.

In January, national sales of exercise equipment, luxury items, and self-help books increase. Why? People want their lives to improve. People want that clean slate. I do too! But as human beings, so often we try to aesthetically fix our problems without going to the foundation of them. Or, by reading self-help books to fix the foundation, we are relying on the same weak self that caused the problem. So, what am I suggesting? An attitude remodeling job?

Yes, but one can only start after he/she makes sure that the foundation is firm. For example, my husband and I have been remodeling a cabin that was started in 1970. It was just a bare-bones structure when we bought it, but worth every penny because the original

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wood framing and foundation were very strong. We wouldn't and *couldn't* have started with the "beautification process" without a strong foundation. What a waste of time and energy that would have been!

But you see, when my Grandmother and friends shared this bit of wisdom with me, their emphasis was clear. They knew that Charles Swindoll was a Christian man. They knew that he was basing his statement with certain things implied. Sure, "...life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it." But, what is the impact of this statement on a person who does not have a personal relationship with Christ? In my opinion, it can only impart a false sense of hope and ultimately: frustration galore! New Year's resolutions go out the window.

Why? If a person is not a Christian, OR if a person is a Christian but does not dedicate each and every day of their life to walking with Christ, there is no foundation for a attitude remodeling job. One must read this passage with the knowledge and hope that Christ is the *only* reason that a person CAN and MUST choose a healthy attitude each day. What an exciting resolution with real hope!

So, whatever your New Year's resolutions, dedicate each day to a new attitude with Christ as your foundation. "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; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:22-24)

- Amy Lynn Kulp

WEEKLY EVENTS:

- *MONDAY: MUSIC-Practice and jam session, UCM Office @ 4:00 P.M.
- *TUESDAY: VESPERS-Casual worship service, Lola Tilly Commons Lounge @ 7:30 P.M.
- *THURSDAY: LUNCH BUNCH-Bible study and snack time, 307 Gruening @ 1:00 P.M.
- *SUNDAY: LEADERSHIP-Open to anyone interested in planning UCM activities, 307 Gruening @ 7:30 P.M.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

A New Weekly Event: Cup o' Noodles Monday! Come to the office anytime between 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. for a free ramen cup of noodles soup and good fellowship. You are welcome to bring your own lunch as well...everything tastes better when you spend lunch time with new and old friends!

The first Vespers of the semester will be on Tuesday, January 20th at 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the Lola Tilly Commons lounge. Start your semester off on the right note--come share in the message and music!

Lunch Bunch will begin on Thursday, January 22nd at 1 p.m. in Gruening 307. We will continue a study of Phillipians. Bring your lunch and an open mind!

Kickoff Super Bowl Party! Meet at the office at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 25th. We will head over to David and Clarice Moore's home for an afternoon of friendly rivalry watching the Denver Broncos vs. the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXII. Bring a snack to share and warm clothes for our own game of touch football at half time!

Leadership will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 25th in Gruening 307. Come with ideas to make this UCM's best semester ever!

