

**LOVE**  
 Without Hypocrisy  
 (in the book of Romans)

**39 – Not "high-minded"**

**Romans 12:16**  
 > The "Mind" Verse <

**3 ISSUES**

- BASIC ATTITUDE → Live in harmony with one another. [LAST TIME]
- REGARDING OTHERS → Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. [TODAY]
- REGARDING SELF → Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

**A focus on our attitude and mind.**

**THE SECOND ISSUE: REPLACING  
 A WRONG "MIND ATTITUDE" WITH A GOOD ONE**

**Do not be proud...** = Don't be "arrogant-minded."  
Romans 12:16b (NIV) (Toward others.)

REPLACE IT WITH THIS

**Do not be proud** but be willing to associate with people of low position.  
Romans 12:16b (NIV)

**WHO CAN BE "ARROGANT-MINDED"?**

★ **ANYONE CAN BE!** ★

- ✓ Those who have much. (Riches, abilities, opportunities, etc.)
- ✓ Those who have little.

**I'M MORE SPECIAL THAN YOU!**

It may be *easier* for the rich and powerful to be proud, but ...

**IT STARTS WITH AN ATTITUDE THAT ANYONE CAN HAVE.**

**I'M MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU!** SO IS BEER!

**YOU'RE ONLY GOOD FOR FREE HANDOUTS!**

**"HIGH-MINDED"**

**ALL YOU LITTLE PEOPLE SHOULD LOOK UP TO ME!**

An arrogant, haughty attitude, and the conduct that goes with it.

- ✓ I'm better than you.
- ✓ I'm self-sufficient and don't need you.
- ✓ I deserve to be around important people (and all of you are unimportant).

**EXAMPLE...**

**Rich people must watch out for this attitude!**

Tell those who have the riches of this world not to be arrogant ...  
1 Tim. 6:17a (GW)

- They should remember the **source** of their riches!

[God] richly provides us with everything to enjoy.  
1 Tim. 6:17 (GW)

**People who have the things of this world:**

- They often have an arrogant attitude toward people who don't have such things.
- In God's sight, they are already "low" (and will stay that way, if they don't repent).

**HE'S FALLING!**

But the rich person's pride should be in his humiliation, because he will pass away like a wildflower in the meadow.  
James 1:10 (NET)



... the rich man will wither away while pursuing his activities.  
James 1:11b (NET)

**YOU SHOULD LOOK UP TO ME!**

**CAUTION! Quicksand**

**LOOK... HE'S SINKING FAST!**



**THE ONLY WAY A RICH PERSON CAN SURVIVE IS THE SAME WAY ANYONE CAN SURVIVE.**

Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.  
James 4:10 (NET)

**YOU SHOULD LOOK UP TO ME!**

**CAUTION! Quicksand**

**WE ALL NEED TO LOWER OURSELVES BEFORE GOD!**



**BEFORE YOU POINT AN ACCUSING FINGER AT THE RICH...**

**WHY ARE YOU SO MUCH AGAINST US RICH PEOPLE?**

- Be aware that poor people can also be preoccupied with the things of this world.



**I LOVE MY THINGS!**

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE COST OF THE THINGS THAT PREOCCUPY.



**EXAMPLE...**

**Saved people: Watch your attitude toward the unsaved!**

- **The issue in this passage:**

What attitude should saved Gentiles (non-Jews) have toward the unsaved Jews?

Do not be arrogant, but be afraid!

Romans 1:20b (ISV)

- **Why should they be "afraid"?**

Because God does not show favoritism (Romans 2:11). Salvation only comes by trust in what God does. There is no basis for an attitude of superiority!

- **Beware of having a "high-minded" attitude about your salvation!**

Jesus also told this parable to some who were confident that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else.

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: extortionists, unrighteous people, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.'

Luke 18:9-12 (NET)

- **It's the humble who will be saved!**

The tax collector, however, stood far off and would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, be merciful to me, sinner that I am!'

I tell you that this man went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee.

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:13-14 (NET)

**EXAMPLE...**

**Having a self-sufficient attitude.**

- **We are all part of the "body of Christ"** (Eph. 4:11-16).
- **We need each other!**

[Using the illustration of a body:]

The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you."

The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

1 Cor. 12:21 (NLT)

- **Here are Jesus' words to a church that thought it was self-sufficient:**

You say, 'I'm rich. I'm wealthy. I don't need anything.'

Yet, you do not realize that you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

Rev. 3:17 (GW)

**THEY'RE ALL SINKING FAST!**

**EXAMPLE...**

**Wanting to be a "super-hero."**

- **We need the attitude of Psalm 131:**

LORD, my heart is not filled with proud ambitions; my eyes are not lifted up in arrogance: I do not preoccupy myself with heroic exploits and mighty accomplishments.

But I have calmed and quieted my restless soul, content like a child resting in its mother's arms. My soul is like a contented, resting child.

O Israel, be content to put your hope in the LORD, both now and forevermore.

Psalms 131 (DHT)

- The apostle Paul **WASN'T** a "super-hero"!

I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling.  
1 Cor. 2:3 (NLT)

[God] said, "My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me.

2 Cor. 12:9 (NLT)

- We must follow Paul's example!

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.  
1 Cor. 11:1 (NIV)

#### EXAMPLE...

Showing favoritism for those the **world** considers important.

- If you call yourself a follower of Jesus, **DON'T DO IT!**

My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim that you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people more than others?

James 2:1 (NLT)

( **Illustration in verses 2-13:** Showing favoritism for the rich; discriminating against the poor. [Favoring the **poor** is also sin – Leviticus 19:15.] )

#### EXAMPLE...

People who separate themselves from those they consider "inferior."

- In Jesus' day, many Jews refused to associate with Samaritans (who were like "half-breed" Jews).
- **Jesus was not like that!** (And neither should we.)

The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.

She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

John 4:9 (NLT)

- For a short time, the apostle Peter fell into the sin of separating from non-Jewish Christians, promoting Jewish practices, and encouraging other Jewish Christians to do the same.

When [Peter] first arrived, he ate with the Gentile Christians, who don't bother with circumcision.

But afterward, when some Jewish friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore because he was afraid of what these legalists would say.

Then the other Jewish Christians followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was influenced to join them in their hypocrisy.

Galatians 2:12-13 (NLT)

- The apostle Paul had to rebuke Peter for his sin.

... I opposed [Peter] to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.

When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

Galatians 2:11b, 14 (NIV)

#### EXAMPLE...

The superior attitude and pomp that many leaders and rich people have.

- King Herod found out it was not a good idea to be exalted to "god-status."

Herod, wearing his royal clothes, sat on his throne and began making a speech to them.

The people started shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"

Immediately, an angel from the Lord killed Herod for not giving glory to God.

Herod was eaten by maggots, and he died.

Acts 12:21b-23 (GW)

- **The King of Babylon learned his lesson...**

All your pomp has been brought down to the grave,  
along with the noise of your harps;  
maggots are spread out beneath you  
and worms cover you.

Isaiah 14:11 (NIV)

- **This is a lesson we all need to learn:**

"All people are like grass,  
and all their beauty is like a flower of the field.  
The grass dries up and the flower drops off,  
but the word of the Lord lasts forever."

1 Peter 1:24-25a (GW)

# Your Mission...

**EVALUATE YOUR ATTITUDE.**  
How "arrogant-minded" are you?

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**Next time (God willing), we will look at  
the "replacement attitude" --- humility.**

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# Your Mission...

**"Do not be proud [= arrogant or "high-minded"], but be willing to associate with people of low position."**

**Romans 12:16b**

**Who (or what) does your life  
center around?**

**A "high-minded" attitude can be dangerous...  
unless it's focused in the right direction!**

## ***THE WRONG TYPE OF "HIGH-MINDED" ATTITUDE:***

- An exalted, "high-minded" attitude about yourself: Don't have such an attitude (Romans 12:16; 11:20)!
- A "high-minded" attitude about things: A warning - God *detests* the things that people tend to *value* (Luke 16:15b).

## ***THE RIGHT TYPE OF "HIGH-MINDED" ATTITUDE:***

**We should associate the word "high" with God. Everything about him is "high"; he is exalted above all else!**

- God is located "high" (compared to us): Hebrews 1:3.
- God's uplifted ("high") arm - symbolizing his great power: Acts 13:17.
- Jesus ascended "on high"; he is exalted ("high"): Ephesians 4:8; Hebrews 7:26.
- Our power (from God) comes from "on high": Luke 24:49.
- The enormity of God's love - it is "high": Ephesians 3:18.

**THERE ARE TWO ways you can focus your  
MIND. CHOOSE THE RIGHT way!**

- God's way vs. the way of people (= influenced by Satan): Matthew 16:23; Mark 8:33.
- The way of heaven vs. the "earthly" way: Philippians 3:19 (compared to v. 20).
- Controlled by the Spirit vs. by the flesh: Romans 8:5.
- Focused on "things above" vs. "earthly things": Colossians 3:2.
- Spiritually mature vs. spiritually childish: 1 Corinthians 13:11.

## ***THE WAY YOU FOCUS YOUR MIND WILL DETERMINE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT YOURSELF.***

- Sober-minded vs. inflated view of yourself: Romans 12:3.

## ***THE WAY YOU FOCUS YOUR MIND WILL DETERMINE THE WAY YOU INTERACT WITH PEOPLE.***

- Pursuing an attitude of harmony vs. having an arrogant attitude: Romans 12:16.
- A spirit of unity (= made possible by God): Romans 15:5.
- Being of one mind and purpose: Philippians 2:2; vs. in constant disagreement with each other: Philippians 4:2.
- Not having an attitude of arrogance or conceit over those who are unsaved: Romans 11:20.