

ENTITLED OR GRATEFUL?

The **attitude of entitlement** seems to be more noticeable in our society.

An attitude of entitlement lacks common courtesy, respect and is fundamentally selfish.

An entitled society results in a more '*self-centred*' society.

An entitled mentality unintentionally leans into irresponsibility.

Irresponsible people refuse to take responsibility for the things they are responsible for.

The opposite to an attitude of entitlement is the virtue of gratitude.

It is easier for us to grumble and complain than it is to be thankful.

How many times have we grumbled about our standard of living?

The **Global liveability index 2023** measures the challenges presented to an individual's lifestyle and standard of living in 173 cities worldwide.

Melbourne 3rd; Sydney 4th; Adelaide and Perth = 12th most liveable cities in the world.

Big Idea: Live life with an attitude of gratitude!

The opposite to an attitude of entitlement is an attitude of gratefulness.

Luke 17:11-18 As Jesus made His way to Jerusalem, He went along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

¹² He was going into a village when He was met by ten men suffering from a dreaded skin disease (leprosy).

They stood at a distance ¹³ and shouted, “Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!” “Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!”

¹⁴ Jesus saw them and said to them, “Go and let the priests examine you.” On the way they were made clean.

¹⁵ When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked Him. The man was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Jesus spoke up, “There were ten who were healed; where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?”

We should always be thankful to Jesus for His blessings.

Psalm 107:1 (nlt) Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever.

*Psalm 118:1 (cev) Tell the Lord how **thankful** you are, because He is kind and always merciful.*

Thankfulness is an emotion that can fade away over time. We can be thankful in the moment when something good happens to us or when we receive a gift. This is a good thing – but temporal.

Thankfulness is expressed externally – a smile, a hug, handshake, cash etc.

Gratitude is an attitude that deepens internally and can remain.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (tlb) Always be joyful. Always keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be **thankful** (attitude of gratitude), for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

(amp) in every situation no matter what the circumstances be thankful and continually give thanks to God (attitude of gratitude); for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

We practice gratitude when we rely on our inner voice to stay positive and remain appreciative in all circumstances.

Gratitude is appreciating the things that we often take for granted.

Gratitude is deciding today is a good day even when the evidence points to the opposite.

We may not always be happy or loving life, but we can still practice gratitude - it's an attitude!

Followers of Christ should increasingly identify an attitude of gratitude within.

Application: Write and post a handwritten card or note to express your gratitude toward someone this week.

Do we genuinely have an ongoing attitude of gratitude for what Jesus has done and continues to do for us.

We should always be sincerely grateful for what Jesus endured for us.

Psalm 86:12 "I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your Name forever."

1 Samuel 12:24 (gnb) Obey the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. Remember the great things He has done for you.