

# Whose Attention Really Matters?

Keith Dixon  
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## Introduction

1. Matthew 6:1-4
2. In our society there is much to-do about gaining attention.
  - a. The way we wear our hair
  - b. The clothes that we wear
  - c. The car that we drive
3. The only one whose attention that really matters is God's.
4. In our striving to get attention there are some things to avoid, just are there some things that will get the attention of God.

## II Discussion

1. Things to avoid
  - a. Seeking to be seen of men Matthew 6:1-4
    - i. These three things discussed were the cardinal works of Jewish religion
    - ii. The only purpose was to be seen of men about how pious these individuals were.
    - iii. God wants us to help the poor, to have a relationship with Him and to mortify the flesh
  - b. Structure over Substance 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5
    - i. Structure is important but when we are emphasizing it over substance it our structure can become ritualistic.
    - ii. Words are important Colossians 4:6
  - c. Personal success yet ignoring where true success originates Daniel 4:28-37
  - d. Trying to look good without doing well 1 Samuel 15:10-23; Ephesians 6:6
  - e. Trying to substitute for what was requested Matthew 25:224-29
  - f. Coveting privilege rather than service Luke 14:7-11
2. Getting God's attention
  - a. Unassuming service Matthew 25:37-39 (When saw we hungry, thirsty, or naked)
  - b. Integrity of heart Psalm 15
  - c. Submission to God's authority rather than relying on personal status Matthew 8:8-13 (centurion, Lord, I am not worthy)
  - d. Priorities allowed to over pride Matthew 15:21-28 (Woman of Canaan, daughter to be healed)
  - e. Costly trust Mark 12:41-44 (widow's mite)

## III Conclusion

1. We admire godly men and women, but we can be reluctant to pay the price associated with godliness
2. We may allow our heads to be turned and take unacceptable shortcuts by worldly priorities.
3. We must not only talk a good game of Christianity but we must play a good game of Christianity.
4. We can obtain the attention of God, by submission to His will.
5. Will you submit today!

Sources: Splash Guard, sermon by Edwin Jones 5/22/05 Karnes TN; The Sermon on the Mount by Eldred Stevens; Studies in the Sermon on the Mount by Nelson Smith