

It is two weeks until Thanksgiving and I hope you look forward to that Day as much as I do. The Thanksgiving holiday leads me to ^{believe} that there are two kinds of attitudes we can cultivate in life: ~~Either~~ One in which we give thanks for what we have; the other, where we feel a great sense of entitlement and therefore are angry for all the things we *don't* have. I prefer the former because ~~an attitude of gratitude leads to health and happiness, while an attitude of entitlement can lead to bitterness.~~

On Thanksgiving Day, after eating way too much food, we give thanks around the table: allowing each person at the table to say what is on their mind and what they have done the past year. It's a heart-warming time: even if some of the family have been through a tough year.

Thanksgiving is not only an end in itself, but can ^{be} many useful attitudes in our day to day relationships.

For example: In public we are trained to display good manners and so we often say thank you, merci beoucoup, gracias, danke, ~~etc~~ to our boss or customers. But do we sometimes forget to say thank you to those nearest and dearest to us? When I do it's not good. A simple word of thanks for the littlest of chores or tasks is sometimes better than all the grand trophies or accolades sitting on ~~the~~ shelf.

Moreover, we can be thankful for simply being together. No family is perfect, but rather than dwelling on the imperfections of other ~~family~~ ^{could be} members, it is more fruitful to give thanks for each other. We can even give thanks for imperfect family members, because they perfect our patience. We can give thanks for intimacy and companionship, ~~and~~ for not being alone, as is the case with so many today.

Sometimes it takes a bit of shaking ~~and~~ ^{or} quaking to make us thankful. Routine breeds a sense of dull contempt, and we forget to give thanks to God and others. But...

There is nothing like a close scrape with death to make you thankful. If I had time I could give dozens of examples from my own life, and many others as well...

~~There is nothing like~~ ^{Sometimes it takes} a sudden loss to make us thankful—unless we ~~have~~ ^{harbor that} a sense of entitlement that makes one bitter.

There is nothing like seeing others suffer to make you thankful. Thankfulness says, "There but for the grace of God go I"; it should lead to compassion. But the sense of entitlement brings only calloused indifference to the plight of others: *they got what they deserve*

Bounty can make us thankful. ~~But~~ Scarcity can also make us thankful. Have you noticed how we are much more likely to give thanks for bread when we have recently been without?

Good health should make us thankful. A new baby's arrival should make us thankful. A life well lived, should make us thankful. ~~Yes, A couple of days ago we laid to rest a long time member of our congregation and while we were saddened by her departure, there was a overriding sense of thanks for a life well spent in service to the community and love of the family.~~

If you would like to cultivate or enhance ~~the~~ ^{an} attitude of thanks-giving I invite you to come out Wednesday evening November 20th at 7:00pm to St. Bernard's Church in Eureka. ^{wife} The Eureka Interfaith Fellowship will sponsor its annual Thanksgiving Sing. About a dozen choirs from various faith communities in Humboldt will share music ~~of thanks~~ from organ and choir, to stringed instruments and folk ~~music~~. We'll be singing thanks to our Creator, and more simply, giving thanks for each other ~~and the~~ ^{gift of life.}

This has Been Dan Price for Community Comment