

**Collection:** African American Newspapers  
**Publication:** The Christian Recorder  
**Date:** April 15, 1897  
**Title:** THE ATTITUDE OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN.  
**Location:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

"The Ideal knighthood of the middle ages was a man trained to the use of arms, imbued with generous sentiments and possessed of all the human virtues. He was ideally brave and courteous, chaste and temperate, generous and pious."

The grand principle of a truly great man or people is love. Love for his country makes the man patriotic, firm and courageous. The love of race makes the humane, having the feelings and dispositions proper and becoming to treat other human beings and animals with generous kindness. Out of love comes kindness pure and simple.

Love looks upon others less favored and sympathizes with them with deep desire to do them good or render some wanted aid if possible. The benevolent feeling which has its birth and growth of love is the desire to promote the prosperity and happiness of others who are already prospering. Love exercises a mild and tender spirit of kindness like the soft, sweet dew of a calm summer's night.

The love of Jonathan and David was of this nature and kind. The friendship of Damon and Pythias manifested the highest degree of the true and noble manhood. Their friendship is a type in profane history unequaled; it stands alone a monument for man to contemplate; a monument for all succeeding ages, a most precious to bequeathment to mortal man.

If the AFro-Americans are to have an acknowledged standing and a future here in the midst of this great and progressive people, dominant and imperious - it must be through the young men and the young women. There must be a regeneration, a new birth; old things must be done away and all things made new. The new man and the new woman is an absolute necessity. As Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." This regeneration or new creation prepares the way for a better condition of things. There must be a new creation in the hearts and minds of our young men and young women of today - a creation absolute, new, which will give a new beginning and start us out on new lines of operation, thoughts, desires, purposes and resolutions. This new creation advances us to a higher level of moral and social life, which forms a broad and solid foundation for growth, operation and development.

I address myself to the young because they are the hope of the present and the future society; they form society; they are indeed society when properly and intelligently organized in view of helping and protecting one another in their rights and privileges as men, women and citizens. Any one, therefore, who is indifferent to the healthy condition, the moral, the intellectual and the industrial improvement of the Afro-American is no friend to him, but a dreaded enemy. I desire to speak earnestly and sincerely of a useful life; how it may be and can be made to serve the divine will and pleasure.

The Afro-American must line up and right up in the review of the divine mind. The pulpit must give better and clearer light. I am aware that there are scores of empty and trifling young men and women who can never be educated to thoughtfulness; but there are those who can be reached and helped to a better condition and to a higher level in life and society. Before the young of this generation are the grandest and most inviting possibilities. Treasures and vast capabilities are given them or put within their reach; they have but to reach forth and grasp them. How significant the times and opportunities of this age. The words of our Lord Jesus are significant and applicable to us: "He that hath eyes to see let him see; he that hath ears to see let him see; he that hath ears to hear let him hear." These are days of opportunities and unfoldings if only seen, heard and embraced aright.

The question before you is this: What do you intend to do with yourself and the precious golden opportunities proffered you? The age demands your decision; suffering humanity cries aloud for help, and God, your Creator, awaits your answer. What shall it be? This question confronts you and you cannot evade the responsibility. You cannot wash your hands and dismiss the responsibility as irrelevant. What are you going to do with yourself? The great bulk of our young men and our young women drift into an evil course of life because they do not think; they do not resolve to do bad things, neither do they resolve to do good things, but simply drift down the current. The result of an aimless life, is as sure and self-destroying as one resolving to be bad. Effort is required on your part to go upward and onward. The aimless life is almost sure to run aground or strand upon some rugged rock. In order to be successful you must have a definite aim in mind and heart to do something in the line of duty or to be a man or woman of noble deeds and parts in keeping with the divine purpose. There must be an ideal example at which to aim, at which to direct the energies of the body and the soul. By studying the deeds and the soul. By studying the deeds and achievements of great men and women we gain access to the forces of those who have ruled and directed the energies of the civil and social world in all ages. We see how that industry, perseverance and patience have achieved human freedom, human rights and happiness, social and moral worth, most of the great and powerful institutions of civil and Christian countries were once but ideas and purposes in the heart and mind of the good and great men and women. As a man thinketh so is he. If he thinks of great and noble things, he himself is noble and great, and outcome or growth is always greatness. Victories and conquests have only been achieved through hard fought battles and by the dearest and greatest sacrifices. The heroes of every age have died for principle and truth. The blood of martyrs has baptized the eternal rock of righteousness upon which human rights have been founded for all time and for all people. Men imbued with the principle of right, with a purpose true and firm, have dared to assail systems of iniquity and oppression. They have toiled day and night to enlighten mankind and to elevate him to a higher level in the scale of being or in the likeness of the Divine image. Such men and women are profitable and also give inspiration to all about them; they shine as lights in the world of mankind. We feel our own souls influenced and stirred by such characters; we are fired by their enthusiasm and encouraged by their deeds and success. This age and our race-variety need men and women of resolution, courage and activity.

Sober men and women, considerate, broad minded and active, who will cast their anchor into the future, and persevere to the desired and objective point. The law of true greatness and success is invincible courage and indomitable energy. If you meet and overcome the stern and opposing realities; if you would meet and overcome the new difficulties as they are found in the path of duty every day, as you are advancing, you must have nerve and courage to sustain you. Superstition must be exchanged for deliberate thought, and calm reason and tame submission must yield to earnest and thorough inquiry.

When any one has resolved to be, and to do the right thing, God helping him, it is almost omnipotent power. There is evidently great power and almost invincible force in right doing. "If God be for us, who can be against us." The man standing on the eternal rock of truth, is mightier than all the powers of earth. His conscience, his sense of right and justice, his reverence for truth and right and for the God of his being, bid him fear no danger. A man of living power and vital energies, a man of intellect, of thought, of a great heart to feel, a strong arm to strike for truth, for right and for humanity, is the man for the tasks of leadership. Trusting in his God, conscious of the purity of his motive, and the justice of his cause, he resolves fearlessly to do his duty, whatever be the apparent consequence. Afro-Americans with such leadership to direct the forces, organize the phalanx, engineer the movement to success and to victory, the opposing forces will be subdued and conquered. When the Afro-American becomes imbued with the love of race, his heart, soul, mind and strength intently absorbed; his zeal, tempered with reasonable knowledge and understanding, he then will appreciate the divine plan embracing civil and Christian appliances along all the lines of improvement. With odds against him he is merging from the fires of prejudice, persecution, suffering and bitter hatred the bush is all on fire, but not consumed. This is a remarkable fact. It proves just what the word of God leads us to believe - that a special providence watches over the oppressed, preserving them for some grand purpose, yet shrouded in mystery. We should not be despondent or discouraged at our trials, burdens and hardships, for the promise is, "For ye shall receive double for all your suffering."

The good time is coming, let us be at the gathering. Remember this - it is the strong and courageous who lead, guide and rule: the light of a single upright and energetic man is a beacon light, his thoughts, his spirits and his courage remembered, ever continue to be the inspiration for succeeding generations. It is the individual man, and the spirit which actuates him, that determines his moral standing, and his real status. The man lives, dies and disappears, but his thoughts and deeds survive; he leaves an indelible stamp upon his race or fellow-man. The man lives even after he is dead; he lives in the hearts and minds of his countrymen who survive him. Thus the spirit of his life is prolonged and perpetuated a thousand generations after his death, moulding the thoughts and wills of men, thereby contributing to form illustrious characters for future generations. Men who advance into the highest and best directions are the forces and springs of human progress; they light up and elevate while living among men, and when dead, their influence like a wave of the sea, sweeps on. I would that I had the influence and power to create in you noble purposes, desires and thoughts, and indeed that I could regenerate your hearts and minds anew, tomorrow morning's sun would shine on a race of people born anew, filled and permeated with the grandest and most noble purpose, holding aloft as your standard, the purest principle, maintaining the dignity of the most noble human character. I would start you out on new lines of operation, I would bury the old man with his deeds and I would bring forth the new man and the new women of the 20th century. I would put away forever the things which obstruct and hinder the progress and development of a higher and better nature. I would let the sunshine of the love of David and Jonathan glow and illumine every heart. I would turn the electric light of the best civil, moral and religious conditions upon you. I would make you forget the dead past, turn your eyes to the real present and to the living future. Like Ezekiel's valley of dry bones, every man and every woman and child would come as bone to bone, and stand upright, I would infuse new life and new power.

What we most need is a proper organization among us; I do not mean a mere mechanical organization of resolutions, no, not at all. I mean that mutual love, wherein we are mutually bound by the sanguine chords of the deepest interest and fellowship of kindred hearts. The first consideration is, household brotherhood, mutual improvement along all the lines civil and Christian walks of life. We only have to casually glance at the great corporations of our land to be convinced of their power and influence. Take our churches, Sunday Schools and other religious societies and see what influence and with what ease one man can direct hundreds and thousands with decorum and dispatch. A few well trained men can put to flight a great mass of untrained and unorganized men. Organize, organize, agitate, agitate, discuss, propose and consider how and what to do to better your condition. Take hold with a death grip, turn and overturn until you have stirred and aroused all the latent powers of your soul. Bring all your faculties and intelligence into operation. Watch, work, pray and resolve until you have wrought a change for the better. First, know that you are right and then go ahead. Fear nothing, care for nothing, aim steadily, earnestly, constantly and devoutly at the right.

There are often Malcontents in the fold, but the organization is kept intact and moves onward with a jostle and commotion here and there. Trouble from without usually intensifies and strengthens the union. We need to study political economy, pure and simple; we need to know some things all along the lines of national and State governments, their intercourse and relations. Let us be found ready and qualified for any and every emergency along the walks of the civil and Christian arena. The way of the Lord is strength to the upright. Be sure and know that you are right and there is no power nor enchantment against you. If there be no room at the bottom, make your way to the top; there is room always there, without let or hinderance. Superior skill and ability are always in demand. Intelligence and righteousness are bound to prevail and rule. Might may overcome right for a time, but right will eventually triumph; God has so willed. He always has a way to bring the right to its proper place in due time. We must not overlook our own wrongs and shortcomings, no, let us be honest, let us see and know our own mistakes and wrongs, and then let us have the courage to acknowledge and correct them. Honesty is a precious jewel worn but by few, secure one and wear it continually about your neck. With a pure heart and conscience, you can stand and prevail against the mighty in wickedness. God is the strength of your life, a present help in the time of trouble; "The God of Jacob is our refuge and defense." If God be for us who can be against us?

We desire to make no plea or to offer any defense for an unworthy culprit. A bad white man and a bad black man are but equals at the bar of justice as equals, if their crimes be equal. Let the law have its course according to the merit of the crime perpetrated; let no other consideration bear down on the balancing scale of justice. When the balance scale is free from bias or prejudice, it is even handed; we desire to make no unjust claims or unfair criticisms against the courts of justice, and the press, which indeed is powerful for good or evil, as the case may be. We only ask fair play and a due consideration ask fair play and a due consideration at the hands of the court and the mighty press, when an Afro-American is accused of crime or found guilty, or charged with some misdemeanor; I have seen judges, who could not restrain their feelings when one of the unfortunate race was arranged before them; they would by some indirect address, or trite expression manifest the deep latent feelings of their heart. The jury would understand this, and thus render their verdict accordingly. Some of the gentlemen of the press, know full well the power of the pen, and how to wield is to advantage. Sometimes they dip their pen into the bitterest gall at hand, tainted with the feelings of latent prejudice, and make an ugly and sensational coloring, often far beyond the merit of the crime or the misdemeanor charged. For instance, they often describe the Afro-American, as a big, burly or a beastly negro - prejudice and feeling give the coloring and description I have often noticed that some of the gentlemen of the press, hear or learn readily of every trivial or petty misdemeanor committed by an Afro-American, and can find space and time to magnify a small matter - far beyond its real merit, while the good deeds and meritorious labors and efforts, of those striving to educate and elevate some of the unfortunate, who cannot get a respectable hearing in the columns of the press, nor a vindication when wronged. The Afro-American being the offspring of the cursed system of slavery, it is easy to slur and afflict the whole race by a slight imprecation. Our lord said to a pert lawyer: "Woe unto you also ye lawyers, for ye load men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burden with one of your fingers." In every conflict of the Afro-American nation and people, with foreign or domestic foes, the Afro-American has fought, bled and died - has given no trouble as yet, as strickers, or anarchists, has ever been loyal, brave and patriotic even when the flag of the country was stripes of affliction to him. He offered himself a sacrifice, and rushed to the rescue, while some of the white sons of America were seeking the life blood of the nation, thundering at the gates of the capitol of the nation. I ask the flippant snarler at the Afro-American, is he just in his imputations? I leave the matter with the fair minded and impartial judge.

Will not the Judge of all the earth do right? Let us show by wise movement and intelligent organization, that we indeed comprehend our condition, and by a clear and forcible presentation of our cause, win the favor of the fair minded and impartial observers.

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