

# The Impact of Attitude

How important is attitude in your personal and professional lives? We can all agree, most likely, that it has much to do with the development of relationships and success in our careers.

What comes to mind when you hear the word *attitude*? How is it defined?

Author and internationally recognized expert on leadership John Maxwell believes attitude is “an inward feeling expressed by outward behavior.”

In his book, *The Maxwell Daily Reader*, he writes: “People always project on the outside what they feel on the inside. Some people try to mask their attitude, and they can fool others for a while. But that cover-up doesn’t last long. Attitude always wiggles its way out.”

A person’s attitude, he said, colors every aspect of his or her life. “It is like the mind’s paintbrush. It can paint everything in bright, vibrant colors, creating a masterpiece. Or it can make everything dark and dreary.”

Attitude is so pervasive and important, Maxwell said, that he thinks of it in these terms:

- It is the vanguard of your true self.
- Its root is inward but its fruit is outward.
- It is your best friend or worst enemy.
- It is more honest and consistent about you than your words.
- It is your outward look based on your past experiences.
- It is what draws people to you or repels them.
- It is never content until it is expressed.
- It is the librarian of your past.
- It is the speaker of your present.
- It is the prophet of your future.

Maxwell is right on target in his conclusions about attitude and its impact. There is not a single part of your current life that is not affected by it.

And your future will definitely be influenced by the attitude you carry with you from this day forward.

*A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones* (Proverbs 17:22 NKJV).

