

BE GENTLE – NOT TEMPERAMENTAL

Galatians 5:22-23, Colossians 3:12, 1 Timothy 6:11

- *"The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."* (Galatians 5:22-23)
- **Gentleness refers to a kind consideration of others that is reflected in our attitudes and speech towards others; it's also known as "meekness" which is a reference to "strength under control."**
- **Jesus (Matthew 11:29), Moses (Numbers 12:3) and Paul were all strong but meek, gentle men.**
- Paul - *"You must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.* (Colossians 3:12)
- Paul - *"Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness."* (1 Timothy 6:11)
- ***What does it take for us to be gentle in our interactions with others?***

Mastering Gentleness Requires Being:

UNDERSTANDING WHEN SOMEONE SERVES US

- *"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."* (Philippians 2:4-5)
- **One of our greatest tests of character is how we treat the people who are around us and the people who serve us.**
- *"They (Believers) must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone."* (Titus 3:2)
- **We need to be kind and courteous even to the people we live with.**
- *"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."* (Ephesians 4:2)
- **The more we seek to understand others, the more gentle and patient we will be with them.**

Mastering Gentleness Requires Being:

GRACIOUS WHEN SOMEONE DISAPPOINTS US

- *"If another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself."* (Galatians 6:1)
- **We need to be gracious to others because God has been gracious to us.**
- *"Each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on each other."* (Romans 14:12-13 NIV)
- *"Accept one another just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."* (Romans 15:7)
- **"Using our judgment" is different from "being judgmental."**
- *"Kind words heal and help. But cutting words wound and maim."* (Proverbs 15:4 Msg)
- **We need to be seeking to bring healing and help to others with our words.**

Mastering Gentleness Requires Being:

TENDER WHEN SOMEONE DISAGREES WITH US

- **We will always have to interact with people who disagree with us.**
- *"Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.:* (Romans 14:1)
- **When people vigorously disagree with us we can: 1) Retreat, 2) Fight back, or 3) Respond with gentleness.**
- *"A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up."* (Proverbs 15:1)
- *"The wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle and friendly."* (James 3:17)
- **Gentleness is the ability to disagree agreeably.**
- *"The Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful Those who oppose him he must gently instruct . . ."* (2 Timothy 2:24-25)

Mastering Gentleness Requires Being:

TEACHABLE WHEN SOMEONE CORRECTS US

- *"Let every man be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to get angry."* (James 1:19)
- **The wisest people we know are those who are most willing to listen to and learn from others.**
- *"Don't bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you."* (Proverbs 9:8)
- ***Who am I willing to learn from?***

- *"Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls."* (James 1:21)
- **Being gentle also requires being willing to admit when we are wrong.**
- *"If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace; if you accept correction, you will be honored."* (Proverbs 13:18)
- **If we refuse to be humble and teachable we will end up living a lonely and defeated life; but if we become teachable, the Lord will bless and help us.**

Mastering Gentleness Requires Being:

<u>SPIRITUAL</u> WHEN SOMEONE HURTS US

- *"Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone."* (Romans 12:17-18)
- **Gentleness is the ability to handle hurt without reacting.**
- ***How do I respond when people hurt me with their words or actions?***
- *"Never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, 'I will take revenge; I will pay them back,' says the LORD. Instead, 'If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.' Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."* (Romans 12:19-21)
- **We should never let someone else's actions determine our reactions.**

- **As we develop the quality of gentleness in our lives we will find ourselves:**
    - **Diffusing conflict**
        - *"A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare."* (Proverbs 15:1)
    - **Disarming our critics**
        - Paul - *"We respond gently when evil things are said about us."* (1 Corinthians 4:13)
    - **Being more persuasive with others**
        - *"Patience and gentle talk can convince a ruler and overcome any problem."* (Proverbs 25:15 CEV)
    - **Becoming more godly**
        - *"You Timothy are a man of God. So . . . pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness."* (1 Timothy 6:11)
- *"Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, <u>you must clothe yourselves with</u> tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, <u>gentleness</u>, and patience.* (Colossians 3:12)

- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and what steps do I need to take to respond to it?***