

The Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness

Various texts

What is Kindness?

- Prātēs: Gentleness, meekness
 - A submissive and teachable spirit toward God that manifests itself in genuine humility and consideration toward others
 - Strength under control, power harnessed in loving service and respectful actions
- One who is gentle will not attempt to push others around or impose one's own will on others
- But gentleness can be coupled with decisive action and firm convictions

The Gentleness of God

- God is gentle with His people (2 Sam 22:36, see Ps 18:35; Isa 40:11)
 - Not imposing His will, but calling us to submit to Him in humility and love
- Jesus is the ultimate example of God's gentle nature (Matt 11:29; 2 Cor 10:1)

Called to Gentleness

- We are called to reflect Jesus' gentleness to others
 - In our speech (Pro 15:1, 4; 25:11)
 - In our actions (1 Tim 6:11b)
 - In humble service (Phil 2:3; Eph 4:1-2)
 - In fact, gentleness is a requirement for godly leaders (1 Tim 3:2-3; 2 Tim 2:24-26)
 - Even in how we correct others (Gal 6:1)
 - And how we witness to the world (1 Pet 3:15; Tts 3:1-2)

So What?

- Are we letting the Holy Spirit produce gentleness in us?
- Are we known for our gentleness?
 - Meekness, not weakness

Meditation Verse: Matthew 5:5