

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Gentleness

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Let's look at what the Bible has to say about gentleness. How do we know it's important to God?

We are going to dig into 4 key verses on this subject.

2 Corinthians 10:1 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ - I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!

A meek person is gentle. They are not bitter or seeking revenge when they are wronged. A gentle person (when talking about someone in authority such as Christ) refers to leniency. They refuse to retaliate, even when it is in their power to do so.

How can you apply this to your life right now? How should we respond to someone who has wronged us?

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Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Oh my! This one is a serious kicker, right?! Think of a fellow Christian that has wronged you (or another fellow Christian). We are called to "restore" them. Not bottle it up or call your friends to tell them all about the horrible things they did to you (and certainly not discussing it on Facebook). God gives a very clear action plan for how to handle this with a fellow Christ follower who wronged us (because He knew we would need it). - See Matthew 18:15-20

How are you dealing with your those who wrong you? Are you responding with a gentle nature? What do you need to change about your response?

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Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Our daily behavior is to be gently in nature. Not some times. Not when we feel like it. We are to be humble and not proud. Gentle and not harsh speaking. Patient and not quick to anger. Love one another unconditionally. Being a Christ follower is not the “easy route” but it’s the true path. Society tells us to respond the exact opposite - because we are some how “entitled” to do so. The act of being gentle does not come easily to us.

What are some ways you can calm yourself down and create a gentle and humble heart? What plan of action can you create today to remind yourself when you're in the heat of it all?

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2 Timothy 2:24-26 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Notice our place here. Notice that we are called to teach and gently correct those who oppose Christ. But the rest is up to God. We are not called to save anyone - we can't - Only Christ Can! We are to gently teach them about Christ and gently correct what the world is trying to say about our truth - our Lord!

How can you change the way you witness to non-believers today? How can you respond differently?
