

The Fruit of Gentleness!

Galatians 5:23

East Berlin Community Church
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December 8, 2019

Introduction

- Current Comcast Xfinity commercial
- Tough attitude in treating others
 - Dominating husbands
 - Overbearing bosses
 - Partisan politicians
 - Dictatorial pastors
- Place of toughness—1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13
- God desires for us to be both “tough and tender”.

The Fruit of Gentleness—Galatians 5:23

A. The Meaning of “Gentleness”

1. Also translated “meekness” in Scripture
2. In Classical Greek literature, gentleness is...
 - a. Used of people or things which have a soothing effect on others
 - b. Used of the right atmosphere in a learning environment with civil discussion
 - c. Used to describe controlled conduct by those with power
 - d. Plato: The “cement of society”—“politeness, courtesy, and kindness”

B. The Models of Gentleness

1. Never officially attributed to God the Father!
2. Jesus Christ models gentleness.—2 Corinthians 10:1
 - a. Jesus Christ was both “tough and tender” in His teaching others. Matt. 7:28-29
 - b. As the “good shepherd”, he gently leads the young—Isaiah 40:10-11; Matt. 19:14
 - c. In contrast to the religious leaders, he is “gentle and lowly in heart”—Matthew 11:28-30
 - d. Even in his dialog with the religious leaders, Jesus gently answers their questions
 - e. Jesus did not promote Himself, but rather model and taught servant leadership. Matt 20:25-28
 - f. Best seen in his humble embracing the cross—Phil. 2:6-8

C. The Means to Gentleness

1. Does not come naturally but produced in us by the Spirit of God.
2. It begins with our own response to the Word of God—James 1:19-22
 - a. Our need to be “swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”
 - b. Our need to “*receive with meekness the implanted Word*”
3. How Paul gently ministered to others —2 Cor. 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:4-8, 13
4. Specific area that need to be handled gently.
 - a. Exercising discipline in the body of Christ—Galatians 6:1; 1 Cor. 10:12-13
 - b. Sharing the gospel or teaching truth to unbelievers or sceptics—1 Peter 3:15-16; 2 Tim. 2:24-26