

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Christ the righteous, Son of God and Son of Man, took upon Himself the guilt of sinners. For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died, nailed to the cross. He was buried, then, on the third day, being the first day of the week, He rose from the dead, and was seen by many witnesses.

He ordered that repentance and forgiveness of sins be preached in His name to all nations. So, now, anyone who turns from his sins, believing in Jesus Christ, is forgiven for all the wrong he has done, and is counted as just or righteous in God's sight.

We who are so forgiven and justified now live our lives in gratitude for what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. In the congregations of the saints, we worship Him and live in love for one another, doing the good works that show the genuineness of our faith.

Those are things that the Word of God teaches us. The Bible warns us against letting anyone give unbiblical teaching in the congregation. If there are teachers who do not consent to the wholesome words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the doctrine that accords with godliness, the disciples will find ourselves tempted to a number of sinful things: to envying each other, reviling each other, having evil suspicions of each other. In such an environment, men of corrupt minds can flourish, whose ideas tempt God's people to such wickedness as desiring to be rich, and loving money.

Knowing that these things can be temptations for us as we live in this world, our Lord's apostle warns us to flee from them. As we turn to flee from such sins, we pursue the virtues that are the character of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having looked together at some of the virtues we are to pursue, to day we will contemplate together another virtue that we are to chase after and catch: meekness.

TEXT

1 Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, ~~gentleness~~ **[meekness]**.

BODY

I. The Word Is “Meekness”

- A. Often when our various English Bibles translate a word by various synonyms, I just reference them all, and they help us understand; but in this case, I am going to insist on considering this virtue to be pursued with the word “meekness”
- B. Our Greek word here is G4236 *praotes* which occurs nine times in the New Testament, all in Paul’s letters
- C. In the early 1500s, William Tyndale translated this word as “meekness,” in every place it occurs; up through the late 1800s, the various English Bibles all said “meekness”
- D. In the 20th century, in America, it became fashionable to use some other word for this, such as “gentleness”
- E. By the end of the 20th century, “meekness” had been replaced almost completely with “gentleness” in the new translations. So, this morning, when I need to preach on pursuing “meekness,” many of our Bibles say “gentleness.”
- F. Let me show you from our Bibles that the word really needs to be translated “meekness”
 - 1. G4236 *praotes* is a noun formed from the adjective G4239 *praus*, which is what have as the word of the Lord Jesus when He said, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”
 - 2. when the word for “gentleness” is put into a list with this word, it can’t be translated as “gentleness,” so the translators must use the traditional “meekness”

2 Cor 10:1			
NKJV	ESV	CSB	KJV
Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ--who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.	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!—	Now I, Paul, myself, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble among you in person but bold toward you when absent.	Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

II. The Virtue of Meekness Is All In Reference to Our Lord Jesus Christ

A. 2 Cor 10:1 “the meekness and gentleness of Christ”

1. when Paul was practicing meekness, he urged the Corinthians to accept his approach by appealing to the meekness of Christ

B. Jesus Christ Himself is meek -

1. He told us so: Matthew 11:28-29 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am **gentle [meek]** and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
2. He quoted OT prophecy that said He would be so: Matthew 21:5 "TELL THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, **LOWLY [MEEK G4239]**, AND SITTING ON A DONKEY, A COLT, THE FOAL OF A DONKEY.' "
 - a) a king is expected to be riding a horse, or riding in a chariot drawn by horses
 - b) but Jesus came in riding an ass, a donkey, a burro

C. He preached about meekness in His disciples

1. at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus told us that to be meek is to be greatly blessed by God;
2. in doing so, He showed us where to go to understand what meekness is: Psalm 37

III. The Definition of Meekness from Psalm 37

A. Ps 37:1 When we have to deal with people doing evil

B. Not being

1. Ps 37:1 fretful, anxious, worried
2. Ps 37:1 envious
3. Ps 37:8 angry

C. Instead

1. Ps 37:3 trusting in the Lord
2. Ps 37:4 delighting in the Lord
3. Ps 37:7 resting in the Lord
4. Ps 37:7 waiting patiently for the Lord

D. Summary: Having such a view of yourself as low servant and God as high sovereign that you can put down the passions that try to flare up when you are threatened or injured, knowing the Lord is taking care of such things, and so deal gently even with people who wrong you.

E. Think how our Lord Jesus Christ showed His amazing meekness when He had to deal with sin for us. He was tempted as we are, yet He prayed in the garden that He would do not His own human will, but the divine will. He trusted in the Lord and waited patiently for the deliverance that He knew would come when He had done all the Father's will.

IV. Meekness Specifically In Reference to the Congregation of the Saints

A. Despite the failings of others, we keep the peace and unity through meekness toward each other

1. Ephesians 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and **gentleness [meekness]**, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
2. Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, **meekness**, longsuffering; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (14) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
3. if we are to be meek when we have to deal with the sinfulness of the wicked people of the world, how much more are we to pursue meekness as we deal with the remaining sinfulness of our fellow believers

B. When someone must be corrected, we correct him in meekness

1. Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness [meekness]**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
2. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, (25) in **humility [meekness]** correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, (26) and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

CONCLUSION

There being such danger in temptations to act hateful to other people in the congregation, and in temptations to desire to be rich, and to love money, let us flee from these things and pursue meekness, the meekness that is in Jesus Christ and from Him, and unto Him.

Jesus, so mighty ~~lofty~~ a Master, modeled such meekness among men that we, unprofitable servants, living to follow Him favor forbearance and forgiveness, over finding faults in our friends; we race to remission and restoration, rather than resort to revenge, we prefer to plead than to ~~pummel~~ punish, believe it better to beg than to brawl, we put patience in place of passion, and lavish love over all.

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - 1 Chronicles 16:34

Dillon - Scripture Reading - Psalm 37

Stephen - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction - Jude 20-21

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 580 "It Is Well with My Soul" - Andrew lead

Journey - Trinity 109 "This Is My Father's World" - Alex lead

Allison - Trinity 129 "Fairer Lord Jesus"

patience, ~~gentleness~~ meekness

Tyndale, Geneva, KJV, RV/ASV all have patience meekness
1946 RSV steadfastness, gentleness

patience ESV: steadfastness CSB: endurance G5281 *hupomone*

verb G5278 *hupomeno*

Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Poole: a quiet bearing of injuries

meekness NKJV, ESV, CSB gentleness G4236 *praotes*

Here is my method for understanding this virtue:

-establish that our English word is rightly “meekness”

-take our Lord Jesus’ mention of it as central:

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 21:5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

meekness like Jesus our Savior,

from G4235; see also G4239 *praus* and G4240 *prautes*

in my judgment, it is better to keep the words “meek” and “meekness,” than to abandon them and use “gentle” and “gentleness”

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 37:1-11

from 2021-12-05

A. To be meek in spirit

1. what it is to be meek in spirit
 - a) when faced with the wicked people of the world, and the sin remaining in the flesh even of Christians
 - (1) not being fretful
 - (2) not being envious
 - (3) not being angry
 - b) delighting in the Lord
 - c) being quiet
 - (1) tranquil, calm
 - (2) silent
 - d) fearing God, not men
2. in the matter of correcting
 - a) 1 Corinthians 4:21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of **gentleness [KJV meekness G4236 *praotes*]**?
 - b) Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness [KJV meekness G4236 *praotes*]**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
3. in the matter of submission - 1 Peter 3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a **gentle [KJV meek G4239 *praus*]** and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

see Galatians 88 2014-05-15

KJV, Geneva, YLT: meekness

NKJV, NIV, ESV: gentleness

From the dictionaries

G4236 *praotes*

Strong: gentleness; by implication humility: meekness

Thayer: gentleness, mildness, meekness

From the Psalm the Lord Jesus quoted: Psalm 37:11

Psa 37:7-11 (7) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. (8) Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm. (9) For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth. (10) For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. (11) **But the meek shall inherit the earth**, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

1. What kind of person here is shown as the opposite of the meek? (7b, 9a, 10a)
2. What are people tempted to do when they see these kind of people? (8)
3. What are people commanded to do instead? (7, 8)
4. What phrase is set as an equivalent of “the meek”? (9b)
5. How is it that the meek will inherit the earth? (10)
6. The meek are those who rest in the Lord, who wait patiently for Him.

Having such a view of yourself as low servant and God as high sovereign that you can put down the passions that try to flare up when you are threatened or injured, knowing the Lord is taking care of such things, and so deal gently even with people who wrong you.

The old pastors' comments

Henry:

We must learn of him to be meek and lowly, and must mortify our pride and passion, which render us so unlike to him.

Poole:

forbearance of passion, rash anger, and hastiness of spirit

Gill:

-humility and lowliness of mind, of which Christ is an eminent example
-[the believer] in having mean thoughts of himself, in walking humbly with God, acknowledging every favour, being thankful for every blessing, and depending on his grace, and in behaving with modesty and humility among men

Clarke:

mildness; indulgence toward the weak and erring, patient suffering of injuries without feeling a spirit of revenge, an even balance of all tempers and passions, the entire oppose to anger

Barnes:

patience in the reception of injuries with a belief that God will vindicate us

Webster:

Softness of temper; mildness; gentleness; forbearance under injuries and provocations.

1. In an evangelical sense, humility; resignation; submission to the divine will, without murmuring or peevishness; opposed to pride, arrogance and refractoriness. Gal 5

In the context of correcting others who are going wrong

1 Corinthians 4:18-5:3 Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. (19) But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. (20) For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. (21) What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of **gentleness [G4236]**? (5:1) It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife! (2) And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. (3) For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

-not with a rod (or NIV whip), but in love and a spirit of meekness or gentleness

2 Corinthians 10:1-2 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the **meekness [G4236]** and gentleness of Christ--who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. (2) But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. (3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, (6) and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

-Paul is capable of confidently waging war against the disobedient in the church; but he would rather be meek/gentle toward them

-his preferred approach is to plead and beg, rather than to command and discipline

2 Timothy 2:23-25 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. (24) And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, (25) in **humility [G4236]** correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

-not in a quarrelsome way, but with gentleness, meekness

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness [G4236]**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

In the context of working toward unity in the church: see the four-word sequence

Ephesians 4:1-4 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all **lowliness and gentleness [G4236], with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love**, (3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) There is **one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

NIV: humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another

ESV: humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another

KJV: lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another

Colossians 3:9-15 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, (10) and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, (11) where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. (12) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on

tender mercies, kindness, **humility, meekness [G4236], longsuffering; (13) bearing with one another**, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (14) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in **one body**; and be thankful.

NIV: humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other

ESV: humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another

KJV: humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another

In the context of submitting to authority

Titus 3:1-2 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, (2) to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all **humility [G4236]** to all men.

KJV: meekness

NKJV, NIV: humility

ESV: courtesy

G4235 *praos* Strong: gentle; that is, humble; meek

G4239 *praus* Strong: mild, that is (by implication) humble

He is so high a Sovereign, that I, so low servant

rather to plead than to pummel
rather to beg than to brawl
rather patience than passion,
restoration than revenge

rather forbearing, forgiving
than finding faults in friends
meekness like Jesus our Savior,

