



SUPERNATURAL LIVING FOR everyday life

A DISCIPLESHIP SERIES ON THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PART 9:

Gentleness



GALATIANS 5:16-26

“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

GALATIANS 5:16-26

“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

GALATIANS 5:16-26

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Gentleness

“PRAUTES”

(Greek)

The positive moral quality of dealing with people in kindness, humility, and consideration of their needs above your own.

GENTLENESS IS THE
ACTION OF HUMILITY.



THE BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Handling hostility from unbelievers

Relating to one another in the church

Dealing with believers caught in sin

Responding to personal sinful desires

THE REAL QUESTION:

DO WE WANT TO CONTINUE PLEASING
OURSELVES, OR WILL WE LAY SELF
DOWN IN PURSUIT OF PLEASING CHRIST?

Gentleness

is not convenient or natural, but it is *right*, and is a *must* for anyone who desires to follow Christ.



Biblical contexts for Gentleness

#1

Handling hostility from unbelievers.



2 Timothy 2:24-26

“And 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, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”

1 Peter 3:14-16

“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

Biblical contexts for Gentleness

#2

Relating to one another within the church family



Ephesians 4:1-3

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”

Colossians 3:12-13

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

OUR SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY:

**PROTECT & PROMOTE
BIBLICAL HEALTH**

in the body of believers, the family of Christ.

*Mature family members lay down personal
desires for the good of the family.*

**Biblical contexts for
Gentleness**

#3

Dealing with believers who have been
caught in sin



GALATIANS 6:1

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin,
you who are spiritual should restore him
gently. But watch yourself, or you also may
be tempted.”

BIBLICAL PROCESSES & CONSEQUENCES
FOR DEALING WITH SIN IN THE CHURCH:

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

Matthew 18:15-17

BIBLICAL PROCESSES & CONSEQUENCES
FOR DEALING WITH SIN IN THE CHURCH:

Address the person in sin privately

If the person repents, gentle restoration is in order

If the person is unrepentant, certain levels of publicity and discipline come as a consequence

Biblical contexts for
Gentleness

#4

Responding to personal sinful desires



1 Timothy 6:10-12

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

THE pursuit of gentleness
IS PRESENTED AS AN alternate life
goal TO PURSUING WEALTH
(OR OTHER WORDLY PURSUITS)

1 Peter 3:3-5

“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves.”

IN AN AGE & CULTURE OF
"OUTWARD ADORNMENT"

Image is everything!

IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD, IT IS THE
Inner Life
THAT DEMONSTRATES THE TRUE
QUALITY OF A PERSON.

WHY IS *gentleness* SUCH A
POWERFUL SOLUTION TO PERSONAL SIN?

Because sin is based on selfishness and pride, and *gentleness is actively doing the opposite of what sin and pride desire.*

Matthew 11:27-30

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

The key to succeeding in gentleness:

EXPERIENCING IT FROM CHRIST HIMSELF





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