

February 12, 2012
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Galatians 5:23

“Walking By The Spirit, Part Twelve”

- 1) Love – attributing value / worth (not bitterness)
 - 2) Joy – exhilaration of the heart (not depression)
 - 3) Peace – tranquility of the mind (not anxiety)
 - 4) Patience – slow to anger; endure difficult people & circumstances (not anger)
 - 5) Kindness – doing something beneficial for someone that hurt you (not stinginess / self-centeredness)
 - 6) Goodness – to do what is right and stand for righteousness (not immorality)
 - 7) Faithfulness – loyalty; fidelity; trustworthiness; the Spirit-led ability to cling to the Word of God as the center stone of our lives (not irresponsibility)
 - 8) Gentleness
- “Gentleness” describes the person who is so much in control of himself that he is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time.” (Aristotle)
 - a) The Scriptural Definition – Greek: prautes = strength / power under control (1 Cor. 4:21; Prov. 15:1; 25:15)
 - Biblical gentleness is that God-given ability to respond to a difficult person or a challenging situation with a strength that is under the control of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
 - b) The Sinful / Sorrowful Contrast – _____ / _____ / _____
(Jn. 8:1-11 cp. Lk. 9:51-56)
 - c) The Supreme Example (Mt. 21:5; 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1)
 - d) The Specific Commands (1 Tim. 6:11; Col. 3:12; Eph. 4:2; 1 Pet. 3:4; 2 Tim. 2:25; Gal. 6:1; James 1:21; 1 Pet. 3:15)
 - e) The Spiritual Impact (Mt. 11:29)

Discussion Questions:

1. Give examples of how you have grown over the past few weeks in your sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and His work in your life. How has preaching the Gospel to yourself daily helped? How have you participated with Him in specific ways to be more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good and faithful? Of those areas which one do you continue to have the most difficulty submitting to His control?
2. What image do people often have when they think of “gentleness”? How is that different from the biblical use of the term?
3. Read Prov. 15:1 & 25:15. What is your natural tendency in very difficult (hostile) situations where others are attacking you? How can gentleness help in situations like that? What is the power of gentleness?
4. What are some antonyms (opposites) for gentleness? Give examples where you have seen others (or yourself) be something other than gentle. Why did you respond that way? Were the results godly?
5. How did Jesus demonstrate gentleness during His earthly ministry? How has He been gentle toward you?
6. How would a deeper understanding of the Gospel of Grace help you become gentler in your dealings with others? How might a legalistic attitude hinder you from being gentle?
7. What are the specific areas where the Holy Spirit wants to produce gentleness in our lives (1 Tim. 6:11; Col. 3:12; Eph. 4:2; 1 Pet. 3:4; 2 Tim. 2:25; Gal. 6:1; James 1:21; 1 Pet. 3:15...)? Of those, which is the most difficult for you? What will you need to do the next time that situation occurs in order to continue walking by the Spirit and be gentle?
8. What are the benefits of being gentle? What are the consequences of not being gentle?

[Answers to blanks: Harsh / Callous / Insensitive]