

Notes:

Sierra Community Church July 23rd, 2023 Part 8 Fruits of the Spirit- Dan Wilvers



The Strength of Gentleness

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control.
Galatians 5:22,23

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

- **Gentleness (Meekness) means strength under control.**

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
Proverbs 15:1

When other's raise their voice, make a conscience choice you lower yours.

Don't leave your job just because your boss is angry with you. Remaining calm solves great problems. Ecclesiastes 10:4

As another translation says: *"because composure puts great offenses to rest."*

- **Gentleness disarms conflict**

When people curse us, we bless them. When they hurt us, we put up with it. ¹³When they tell evil lies about us, we speak nice words about them.
1 Corinthians 4:12,13

The wise are known for their understanding, and pleasant words are persuasive.
Proverbs 16:21

*"I'm never persuasive when I'm abrasive."
Pastor Rick Warren*

Community Group Questions:

1. What strengths do you possess that a gentle spirit could enhance?
2. How do you respond when someone verbally attacks you?
3. So who can you practice a gentle spirit on this week? What will you do differently?

- **Gentleness is attractive.**

But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11

Ruth and Boaz' Story:

Ruth says to Boaz, *"You have made me feel better by speaking gently to me."*
Ruth 4:13

"You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God." 1 Peter 3:4

"Husbands, love your wives and be gentle with them."
Colossians 3:19

The Story of Rehoboam (Son of Solomon, grandson of David):

He goes to the older leaders and asks them, "Would you guys tell me what I need to do to earn the respect of the people?"

And they replied, "If you give them a pleasant reply and agree to be good to them and serve them well, you can be their king forever." 1 Kings 12:7

He then goes to his peers:
"Tell them, 'If you think my father was hard on you, well, I'll be harder! '11 Yes, my father was harsh, but I'll be even harsher! My father used whips on you, but I'll use scorpions!'"
1 Kings 12:10,11

Contrast Rehoboam with what the Bible says about Moses:
"Moses was a very meek and gentle man. In fact, he was more gentle than anyone else on the face of the earth." Numbers 12:3

There are only two people in the Bible identified as gentle, care to guess who the other one is?

"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."
Matthew 11:29

- **Gentleness is always civil.**

Remind the believers... ² *They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.* Titus 3:1,2

"People aren't going to listen to you until they trust you"

"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." 1 Peter 3:15

So who can you practice gentleness with this week?

"Help me to treat people the way you would Jesus."

1. When someone serves you, be understanding not demanding.
2. When someone disagrees with me, be humble and gracious.