

Fruits of the Spirit(Gentleness)

There are nine fruits placed in the life of a believer. When you got saved, the Holy Spirit began to dwell within you (I Cor. 6:19). An there he remains until we leave mortality and step into immortality. The Holy Spirit does not sit idly by; he begins a transformation. He changes you from the inside out. The Holy Spirit exchanges your old works with something he calls the Fruit of the Spirit. These are God's replacements for the eighteen works of the flesh as listed in Galatians 5:19-21. So far we have studied the fruits of Love, Joy, Peace, and Longsuffering.

Let's examine another fruit of the Spirit and it is **Gentleness** (Gal. 5:22-23). The Greek word for **Gentleness** is *epieikeia* which means patience, softness, patient mind, modesty, forbearance, reasonable, and mildness. The purpose of gentleness is counteract the works of the flesh and to show the life of Christ. If you are **gentle** then you are the opposite of fierce, unkind, harsh, severe, hateful, stubbornness, mean, vindictive. If you possess a gentleness in you then you are being led and governed by the Holy Spirit.

I. Gentleness is Our Nature..... "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart" (Mat. 11:29)

- There are a lot of things that we have *taken* such as - a back seat, a wrong turn, etc.
- In this verse Christ is telling us to *take up* his yoke, which has joined us to him.
- Since we are joined to him we are now embodied in him, the meekness and gentleness of Jesus Christ II Cor. 10:1

II. Gentleness Should be Revealed..... "Let your gentleness be known to all men the Lord is at hand" (Phil. 4:5)

- Just as DNA is used to identify a child with its parents. Gentleness is an identifying trait for a Christian.
- All Christians should display gentleness (Titus 3:1-2).
- The real test comes when gentleness is shown to the unkind, thankless, spiteful, mean, vindictive people of the world.
- The Lord is at hand the righteous judge is ever watchful, he's aware of our conduct to others. One day we will have to answer to the Lord.

III. Gentleness Should be Worn..... "Even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which is in sight of God of great price" (I Peter 3:4)

- There are certain pieces of clothing that are designed to be worn to different settings such as after fives and tuxedos to formal affairs, swim wear to the beach; but **gentleness** should and can be worn anywhere at all times.
- Possessing a gentle spirit is not always easy - sometimes we let our emotions get the best of us. We need to be like Paul and keep our bodies under subjection (I Cor. 9:27)
- We need to focus on Jesus who was and is gentle and lowly in heart.