



Are You a Gentle-Man?

A Biblical Theology of Gentleness

Dr. Dave Currie

*“Let your **gentleness** be evident to all. The Lord is near.”*

Philippians 4:5

1. The Perspective of GENTLENESS

- The quality of being kind, tender, or mild-mannered
- The quality of being calm, kind & soft
- The quality of graciousness
- The quality of being kind, quiet, careful or mild-mannered
- The quality of not being rough, harsh, violent, severe or strong
- As acting in a careful and tender manner.
- Kind, considerate and tender in disposition

2. The Passages of GENTLENESS

*“Let your **gentleness** be evident to all. The Lord is near.”* Philippians 4:5

- Seen by all, clear and noticeable.
- The Lord is near when you are gentle.
- The Lord is near so you better be gentle.
- The Lord’s coming is near and gentleness confirms you are a follower of Jesus.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **gentleness** and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

Galatians 5:22-23

- 1 of 9 of the fruit of the spirit.
- It is clearly one of the outcomes of the Spirit-filled life.
- The opposite of gentleness is contrary to God’s plan

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, **gentleness** and patience”.*

Colossians 3:12

- Highlighted again as one of the key characteristics of God’s People
- We put on gentleness like we clothe ourselves with a coat.
- We wear it - beautiful, caring treatment of others. Note these 5 traits

*“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and **gentleness**.”* 1 Timothy 6:11

- As an aspiring Man of God, you are to pursue a clearly different lifestyle.
- You must flee from a dark selfish lifestyle.
- Gentleness is listed as one of the target 6 characteristics.

*“But in your hearts revere 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.”* 1 Peter 3:15-16

- Your Christlike behaviour calls attention to the Jesus difference.
- Interact with people about your faith always in a gentle and respectful way.
- When you are gentle, you are Jesus.

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

- In times of tension - look what gentleness does.
- Notice the opposite of gentleness is harshness.
- Your gentle approach will calm things down.

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* Matthew 11:28-30

- Jesus describes his own heart here as gentle.
- The Lord pursues you with gentleness.
- You never have to fear coming to the Lord when weary and burdened.

*“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.”* Ephesians 4:1-3

- Again, the transformed Christ life always includes Gentleness
- Notice its COMPLETELY humble and gentle. Not sometimes or a little bit.
- Gentleness is listed as one of the clear signs of a worthy life in Jesus.

*“Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but **gentle**, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full^{1a} respect.”* 1 Timothy 3:2-4

- The characteristics as an Elder - a leader in the church - sites gentleness
- The opposite of gentleness is violence.
- How you live and interact with people truly matters to God.

*“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be **gentle** toward everyone.”* Titus 3:1-2

- As Paul lays out to Titus what he should call his people to, note gentleness
- ALWAYS be Gentle... no excuses!
- Be Gentle to EVERYONE.... No exceptions!

*“In the same way, you husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way [with great **gentleness** and tact, and with an intelligent regard for the marriage relationship], as with someone physically weaker, since she is a woman. Show her honor and respect as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered or ineffective.” 1 Pet. 1:7 (amp)*

- Treat your wife with GENTLENESS and respect.
- It’s the way of the God’s marriage.
- She should get your very best treatment

*“Who among you is wise and intelligent? Let him by his good conduct show his [good] deeds with the **gentleness** and humility of true wisdom.”*

James 3:13

- If you are WISE and INTELLIGENT - Gentleness shows.
- Gentleness is the sign of true wisdom. It is the way of the wise.

*“But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, **gentle** at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.”*

James 3:17

- Godly wisdom is described here: 8 characteristics are given,
- Gentleness at ALL TIMES
- You can’t deny that gentleness with others is what we are called to.

3. The Path of GENTLENESS

1. Lead with Humility; Pack your pride.
2. Lead with Self-denial; Put other’s first.
3. Lead with Tenderness; Plan a soft approach.
4. Lead with Kindness; Possess a caring heart.

4. The Pervasiveness of GENTLENESS

- It is Fully Evident to All
- It is Clearly Partner-focused for those married

5. The Power of GENTLENESS

- It transforms the relationship
- It causes others to feel safe.
- It is fully others-centered.
- It displays great care and regard.
- It wants their best every time.
- It never leads to battles and reactions
- It displays great self-control and awareness
- It fully represents Jesus.

6. The Polar Opposite of GENTLENESS (Top 40)

Harsh	Angry	Rough	Impatient
Violent	Severe	Opinionated	Defensive
Unforgiving	Exasperated	Inconsiderate	Thoughtless
Meanness	Spiteful	Unkindness	Oppressive
Uncaring	Brash	Nasty	Grouchy
Insensitive	Brazen	Rude	Impolite
Proud	Pushy	Arrogant	Hard-hearted
Quarrelsome	Hateful	Condescending	Disrespectful
Have to be Right	Disagreeable	Unpleasant	Punishing
Callous	Cruel	Sternness	Gruff

(Mark the top 5 dispositions that you display to your spouse?)

7. What is God asking you to do?