

## Gentleness –Pt 2 Be gentle to all men

This is our second and final study on the word “gentleness”. In our previous teaching we covered three points– (i) God’s gentleness made David great (ii) wisdom from above (from God) is gentle, and (iii) as a nurse cherishes her children so God was gentle with Israel by gathering them together. In this teaching we establish three points– (i) Jesus is our example of being gentle, (ii) the fruit of the Spirit of God is gentleness, and (iii) a servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle to all men.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our four points–

### 1. Jesus is our example of being gentle

“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you” (2 Cor.10: 1).

### 2. The fruit of the Spirit of God is gentleness.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith” (Gal 5:22).

### 3. A servant of the Lord must not strive but be gentle unto ALL men

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient” (2 Tim.2: 24). See also Tit 3:2.

#### Illustration

There was a family that come over from the USA as missionaries – they had 12 children, and their time here was waiting on the Lord to establish His will for them. They ended up going to Honduras and planted a church. They are an example of a family that are prepared to, not just preach the gospel, but impart their own souls to others, that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved. They would have had a preparedness to give their own souls, and be gentle to those they have encountered from another culture. First understanding them, then getting along side them, then proclaiming the gospel of Christ–crucified, and then be kindly affectioned (gentle) one to another.

#### Questions of the scriptures

- i) What does it mean to show gentleness to ALL men?
- ii) Why would believers say they do not have gentleness if we all have the Spirit?

#### Answers from the scriptures

- i) Using the example of Paul – to be gentle is to be affectionately desirous of the lost, willing to impart not just the gospel of God only, but also our own souls.
- ii) Gentleness is not a human trait, it is a fruit of the Spirit of God. Therefore, if we struggle to show gentleness to all men, do not ask the Lord for gentleness, but rather ask the Lord to show you the sin that is quenching the Holy Spirit. Because, when a person quenches the Holy Ghost, then the Spirit cannot bear fruit. It is sin that quenches the Spirit of God– Rom.8: 10– “And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness”. Therefore, depart from iniquity, and allow the Spirit to bear the fruit of gentleness in a way that God showed to Israel, Christ showed to the world, and Paul did to the lost, and to the churches.

Let us ask the Lord to show us our sin, that His Holy Spirit may bear the fruit of gentleness in us that we would not just be prepared to share the gospel, but impart our own souls to the lost, and so show gentleness to them (that they might be saved), and be kindly affectioned (gentle) to our brethren. To the glory of God!