

“Am I Gentle?”
(Part 7 - 10 Part Series on “What is a Mature Disciple of Jesus?”)
June 12, 2011

Scripture Reading – 2 Tim. 2:20-26

1. Was Jesus “gentle?” (Matt. 11:29)

Definition = Strength under control; not weakness.

2. When is gentleness needed?

- Difficult people. (2 Tim. 2:24-25; Titus 3:2)
-“not pugnacious” (1 Tim. 3:3)
-“peaceable” (1 Tim. 3:3; Matt. 5:9)
- Difficult situations. (Gal. 5:23; 1 Thess. 2:7-9; James 3:17)

Application:

1. Are you gentle? When is it most difficult?
2. Pray and ask for the work of the Holy Spirit in your life to create the ability to be “gentle.”

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
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1. How does Jesus describe Himself in Matt. 11:29? What is the Biblical definition of "gentle" or "meek?" (Also 2 Cor. 10:1) Discuss the idea of "strength under control" as it relates to "gentleness."
2. Gentleness is needed every day with "difficult" people. Read 2 Tim. 2:24-25 and discuss the opposite of gentleness that is seen sometimes with Christians. Read I Peter 3:15 and Gal. 6:1 and identify the value of gentleness in helping difficult people.
3. What does it mean to "malign" someone? (Titus 3:2) How do you deal with someone who does not want to be at peace with you? (Rom. 12:18) What should our attitude be? (Heb. 12:14)
4. What of the qualifications for an elder in a church is to be "peaceable and not pugnacious?" (I Tim. 3:3) If we are going to be peaceable, what must we do first? (James 3:17a)
5. Study the passages that describe our God as a God of peace. (Judges 6:24)
 - God the Father –Rom. 15:33; 2 Cor. 13:11
 - God the Son – Isa. 9:6; Eph. 2:13-14; Col. 1:19-20
 - God the Holy Spirit – Gal. 5:23
 - God's people –John 16:33; I Cor. 7:15; 2 Cor. 5:18
 - God's message –Eph. 6:15; Acts 10:36
6. Why do some people not experience God's peace? (Isa. 48:22) In being gentle and peaceable we still must speak truth. What did Jesus say about the response to His message? (Mark 10:34) How is the Bible described in Heb. 4:12? What should always be attached to the truth when we speak? (Eph. 4:15)
7. What does Biblical gentleness look like? (I Thess. 2:7-9) What decision do we need to make if we are going to practice gentleness? (Col. 3:12) Look at the two different ways of living in James 3:16-17 and clarify what kind of person you want to be.
8. Pray for wisdom and strength to respond with gentleness this week.