

Philippians 4:5

LET YOUR MODERATION BE KNOWN

- I. A gentle character.
 - A. There is no single English word which fully expresses the meaning of the word translated “moderation.”
 - 1. The idea is that of big-heartedness, forbearance, yielding, kind, sweetly reasonable, considerate, charitable, mild.
 - 2. This is not a moderation in religion or toward false teachers, hoping they mean differently than what they say.
 - 3. The word refers to a way of treating others, arising out of meekness, usually in response to hurtful treatment.
 - 4. This attitude is the opposite of one which rigorously insisting on my just due.
 - B. Context of “rejoice in the Lord always.”
 - C. To whom is this attitude to be exercised? “Unto all men”, not only to fellow-believers.
 - D. Note that this gentleness is not just to be shown to all, but is to be “known” by all men.
 - 1. All with whom we have contact are to realize, feel, and appreciate it in us.
 - 2. It is practiced publicly – a letting our light shine, so God might be glorified by those called by His name.
- II. Christian gentleness is closely tied with the comfort the Christian derives from knowing the coming of the Lord (3:20,21).
 - A. Not primarily the idea that Jesus is nearby or constantly near (though this idea is not completely out of sight).
 - 1. Conscious of His eye, we should behave with kindness and tenderness toward all.
 - 2. And know that He is our ever present help to endure knowing He sees the hurts and will avenge us in due time.
 - B. But the emphasis is on the Lord’s coming soon; the nearness of His parousia.
 - 1. Not knowing the day and the hour when Jesus will return (Matt. 24:36), it is “at hand, and we must be ready at all times.
 - 2. Our Lord comes to judge, to right all wrongs, avenge His elect, and vindicate their cause.
 - 3. We who live in the constant expectation of Christ’s return and our glorification, are able to show this noble gentleness.