

MEEKNESS

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Sunday School – Sept. 12, 2021

A. SCRIPTURE

1. Galatians 5:22, 23 – “ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

a. Meekness: Noun – “prautes” pronounced – prah-oo-tace, meaning gentleness, humility, mildness; meekness; and is translated “meekness” in King James.

b. Colossians 3:1-17

NOTE: There is no English word that correlates to this word. All fall short of conveying the spiritual meaning. It does NOT mean weak, fearful, timid, cowardly, or powerless.

Meekness involves other qualities and attributes such as gentleness, humility, kindness, self-control, patience, love, compassion, peaceful, and others!

B. DEFINITION

1. Secular: Meekness – The quality of being patient or quiet in nature.

2. Synonyms: (SECULAR) - gentleness, humility, timidness, mildness, modest

3. Antonyms: (SECULAR) – boldness, pride, arrogance, assertiveness, forcefulness, etc.

4. Spiritual: A quality of believers that reflects the character of Christ in obedience and submissiveness to God’s will with unwavering faith and patience, expressed by gentle (without force, revenge or retaliation), kind, humble, peaceful, and loving attitude and actions toward God & others, despite opposition and even persecution. Meekness is enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit restraining and bringing the believer into faithful harmony with God’s will for His glory.

5. Meekness reflects 3 attitudes of the believer in the New Testament:

a. Responsive submission to the Will of God – Col. 3:1-17

b. Receptiveness (teachableness; openness) to the Word of God – James 1:21

c. Relationships with and loving consideration of others – Eph 4:1-2

C. Principles:

- 1. The Lord Jesus Christ was Meek. Matthew 11:29; II Cor. 10:1; Phil. 2:7-8**
- 2. We are to be like Christ and exemplify Meekness as he did in His ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:2-7; Matthew 11:29; Matthew 5:5**
- 3. As believers, our conduct is to reflect and exemplify Christlike “Meekness of Wisdom.” This is the true wisdom that is an attribute from God, and it is the ability to view life from God’s perspective). James 3:13-18**
- 4. Meekness is opposed to pride, arrogance, self-ambition, self-glory, etc. James 3:13-18**
- 5. Spiritual Meekness is the opposite of being out of control. It is divinely enabled self-control by the Holy Spirit. (Often expressed “power under control.) Gal. 5:23; I Pet. 1:5-6**
- 6. Meekness is a (frequently overlooked and misunderstood) fruit of the Spirit, and Meekness is enabled by the Holy Spirit as we walk in the Spirit. True Meekness comes only from God. Gal. 5:18-25**
- 7. Meekness is included in the lists of Christian Character in the Bible. Col. 3:12, 13**
- 8. We are to speak evil of (malign, slander) no one, to be peaceable (not be contentious or fighting), to be gentle, while showing meekness (a kind, humble, peaceful, patient, & loving attitude) to all men since we were once sinners (verse 3 of chapter 2). Titus 3:2-7**
- 9. Meekness and Humility (lowly) are often connected in Scripture and are closely interrelated. Humility makes Meekness possible! Eph 4:2; Col. 3:12; Matt. 11:29**

Summary:

It is God’s will that we be followers and imitators of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are to wear the character, attitudes, qualities, and virtues of Christ. We are to bear the fruit of the Spirit. As we serve and worship Him in obedience to God’s Word, God enables us to be Meek and to grow by His grace. We are to be Meek as we walk in the Spirit in Biblical love and unity. We are to be Meek servants of our faithful God resting in His promises to meet all our needs as we obey, serve, and show our love for Him in the ministry He has given us for the purpose of glorifying God.