

"Meekness, Gentleness"
Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJ)

In the distance, there stands a white horse, proud and persistent to run his own course, entering through no other doors, but those he has made for himself. In his own eyes he's the prince of all, clever and wise, he heeds no call, ever denies that he could fall, dependent on nobody else.

As time went on, he came upon, the thought that he was lonely. He felt the fear, he cried a tear, and he knew he was not the only. The Rider whose name was TRUE begins to seek! He opens his eyes to find His stallion meek!

Then came that moment, with no one in sight, but a horse with no name and the Rider in white, filled with compassion for his plight, the stallion he claims for his own. As time had passed there came at last, the lifting of his burden, his strength renewed with gratitude and joy, he became a servant! The Rider has come in view His form unique and He has chosen to ride upon His stallion meek.

I. The fruit of the Spirit, gentleness / meekness defined and described –

1. The Greek word is equal to our English words meekness and gentleness combined! (See the bulletin cover) -

Greek - πραότης praotes {prah-ot'-ace} Means: 1) gentleness, mildness, meekness

The same Greek word which in Galatians 5:23 is translated "gentleness" in other NT passages is translated "meekness."

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; (Colossians 3:12 NKJ)

See also 2 Corinthians 10:1; James 1:21 & 3:13; 1Peter 3:15

Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the **meekness and gentleness** of Christ-- who in presence *am* lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. (2 Corinthians 10:1 NKJ)

In 2 Corinthians 10:1 - The word translated “gentleness” is a different Greek word 932 ἐπιείκεια epieikeia {ep-ee-i'-ki-ah}
Meaning: 1) mildness, gentleness, fairness

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive **with meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21 NKJ)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with **meekness** and fear; (1 Peter 3:15 NKJ)

2. *The Meek-gentleness or Gentle-meekness describe here might be easiest to explain in terms of what it is OPPOSITE of – Pride, lifting up or glorifying or indulging SELF, depending on self, doing things as Frank Sinatra used to sing “My Way!”*
If such an un-meek person prays he prays “My will be done, my kingdom come” and if his is NOT DONE he is FURIOUS!

By nature, opposite of being meek and gentle, we are like wild horses, bucking broncos: we don't like to be rode, we don't like to be ruled or controlled or governed. Especially not by God, our sin nature fights against it!

In Scripture such people are described as ‘stiff necked’ –

²³ **"But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear nor receive instruction. (Jeremiah 17:23 NKJ)**

⁵¹ **"You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so *do* you. (Act 7:51 NKJ)**

4644 σκληροτράχηλος sklerotrachelos {sklay-rot-rakh'-ay-los}
Meaning: 1) stiffnecked 2) stubborn, headstrong, obstinate

There are no notes for this verse.

Ye stiff-necked - A metaphor taken from untoward oxen, who cannot be broken into the yoke; and whose strong necks cannot be bended to the right or the left.

Yet the gentle / meek horse is easily controlled and moved by its rider and so the meek, gentle Christian is desirous to do the Lord's will!

II. As a fruit of God's Spirit this "meek – gentleness" is SUPERNATURAL -

"But the fruit of the Spirit is ...gentleness (meekness)"

1. *This fruit of the Spirit should be distinguished from natural niceness; even a dog can be nice!*

You can be nice on the outside but boiling INSIDE, BOILING INSIDE is not meek, no matter how meek the outside may appear!

Many times after a mass murder you hear "but he was such a quiet person"

2. *The rich young ruler seems a Biblical example of natural niceness -*

¹⁷ **Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"** ¹⁸ **So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.** ¹⁹ **"You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery," Do not murder," Do not steal," Do not bear false witness," Do not defraud," Honor your father and your mother."**

²⁰ **And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."** ²¹ **Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." (Mark 10:17-21 NKJ)**

He was not even close to letting go of his money! On that he had an horrible iron grip!

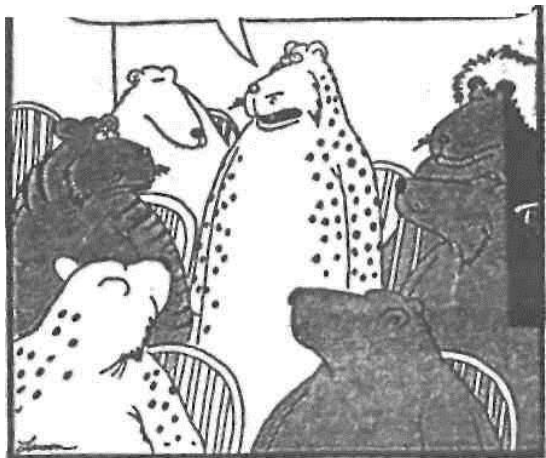
III. Yet, godly meekness requires training, discipline, spiritual growth, heart-work –

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. (Jeremiah 13:23 NKJ)

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matthew 15:19 NKJ)
Matthew 15:9 in your bulletin was / is a typo

Meekness takes us against our sin nature -

*"My name is Elmo. Well, it all started rather innocently... Killing socially, y'know ... a game warden here, a tourist there... impressing the other guys, y'know ... but then I just couldn't stop. Sometimes I'd even stash an extra one in the crotch of a tree."
Man-eaters Anonymous*



We are all some degree like wild animals – wild for sin! We have varying wicked desires – we feel pride, we feel lust, envy, jealousy, even hatred burning inside us – these are the lusts / works of the flesh that LUSTS against the Spirit –

1. Meekness involves applying spiritual truths (doctrines) to your life. The truths of Matthew 5:3-4 are applied in Matthew 5:5

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:3-5 NKJ)

You know you are a sinner (poor in Spirit) you know you deserve Hell (a good reason to mourn) therefore, you are pleasantly surprised when God or anyone else shows you kindness –

"I would define meekness like this. The man who is truly meek is the one who is amazed that God and man can think of him as well as they do and treat him as well as they do." Martyn Lloyd-Jones

2. *The meek person realizes God brings curses and difficulties into his life and that they are deserved –*

A. *Our sins "deserve" Hell's fire, less PUNISHMENT than that is grace -*

Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? (Lamentations 3:39 NKJ)

B. *God graciously brings difficulties into our life as discipline -*

⁵ **And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;**

⁶ **For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." (Hebrews 12:5-6 NKJ)**

Discipline is evidence of the LORD's LOVE!

IV. Meekness (Gentleness) itself is a blessing which brings other blessings –

1. *Meekness opens a person up to God's instruction –*

The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. (Psalm 25:9 NKJ)

⁹ **The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. (Psalm 25:9 KJV)**

2. *Meekness makes a person reward-able by God –*

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5 KJV)

The world is always GRABBING for the earth, the meek are given what they have with God's blessing!

3. *Meekness / Gentleness makes us Christ-like –*

""Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:29 NKJ)

4. *Meekness / Gentleness enables us to speak for God –*

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (1 Peter 3:15 NKJ)

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who **are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (Galatians 6:1 NKJ)**

5. *True spiritual meekness will be valued when Christ returns to judge the world –*

³ Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD'S anger. (Zephaniah 2:3 NKJ)

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