

It's All in the Fruit (Part 8 - Gentleness)
Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:22-23. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

I. What is gentleness?

A. It is not being unnecessarily harsh in dealings with others.

B. Gentleness also involves us seeing our proper place under God and relating to others accordingly.

C. Gentleness involves our will being submitted to God's will and relating to others accordingly.

D. Gentleness also involves our power being under God's control.

E. It involves not demanding our rights but yielding them to God.

II. Yeshua is our role model of gentleness.

Matthew 11:28-29. ²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am **gentle** and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS."

Yeshua was meek but not weak!

III. We are to be gentle like Yeshua.

Ephesians 4:1-2. Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and **gentleness**, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, (Colossians 3:12).

To walk in a manner worthy of our life in Yeshua, we must be gentle.

A. We are all to be gentle.

1. Wives are to be gentle (1 Peter 3:4). [πραύς]

2. Spiritual leaders are to be gentle. (1 Timothy 3:3.) [ἐπιεικής] (1 Thessalonians 2:7).

3. We should be gentle to all people. (Philippians 4:5.) [ἐπιεικής] (Titus 3:2).

B. We are blessed when we are gentle.

Matthew 5:5. "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

C. Those who are wise are gentle.

James 3:13. Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the **gentleness** of wisdom.

IV. We need to be gentle, even in challenging situations.

A. We need to defend our faith with gentleness.

1 Peter 3:14-16. But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, ¹⁵ but sanctify Messiah as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with **gentleness** and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Messiah will be put to shame.

2 Timothy 2:24-26. ²⁴ The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be **kind [gentle]** to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵ with **gentleness** correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

In **Ephesians 4:15** we are told to speak the truth in love.

B. We need to restore a repentant sinner with gentleness.

Galatians 6:1. Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness**; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

C. We need to receive God's word with gentleness.

James 1:21-22. ²¹ Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in **humility [or gentleness]** receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

D. We need to respond to anger with gentleness.

Proverbs 15:1. A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

V. How to be gentler?

1 Timothy 6:11. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness (**πραῦπαθία** meekness).

A. Pray for God to make you aware when you are not being gentle.

B. When you realize that you are not being gentle, confess and repent of it. So it is a sin not to be gentle, but instead be unnecessarily harsh.

C. Seek to always be controlled by the Spirit so He will manifest gentleness in your life.

D. Yield to the Lord as He works in your life to make you gentler.

Just like man has to break a wild horse to become tame, God has to work in our life to break our will to submit to His. How does God do that? By having us go through the school of hard knocks.

Conclusion