

Inspiration Inspiration



from the Pastor's Pen

August 6, 2009

"GENTLE AS A LAMB?"

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Col. 3:12

Jesus, Himself, affirmed that you could tell a tree by its fruit (Matthew 7:33) and *"a good man out of the good treasures of his heart brings forth good things..."* (Matthew 7:35). The Apostle Paul declared that one of the fruits that God's Spirit produces in any person is "Gentleness" (Galatians 9:22). In fact, it is listed in the very center of the list of fruits from the Holy Spirit.

There will be situations that arise in our home, in our work place, even in our church. If we have allowed the Holy Spirit to take root in our lives and begin to bear fruit, we should be behaving in accordance with the many characteristics the Spirit has planted. As people of God, we have a responsibility to help others in their circumstances and when we do, we need to make sure we are using gentleness in our interactions, for we are all human, we can all be tempted, and we are all vulnerable to sin.

Did you know that part of gentleness is giving up the right to be right. We can often hold onto our rights more than our relationships. We want to be correct. But we can insist on being correct at the cost of our relationships. Paul says it is better to be wrong and cheated than to break fellowship with another Christian. Why do we have to be right when we might lose our relationships? When we argue with others, we have to be careful not to win the argument, but lose the relationship. We are asked to be in harmony with each other and many times this is where we need gentleness. Martin Luther King was a man of non-violence. He understood that violence usually leads to separation. As people of God, we must show the world that through gentleness problems can be resolved.

The way we handle differences, and the way we correct and encourage others, is part of our witness. We do not expect a world without problems. However, as Christians we do expect to deal with problems by the gentleness the Spirit gives.

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