

## Gentleness

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit [moderation] be known to all men. The Lord is near [with and in us].** (Philippians 4:4-5)

The KJV word *meekness* in Galatians 5:23 (from the Greek word *prautes*) is translated as *gentleness* in most modern Bible versions (e.g., I Corinthians 4:21; I Timothy 6:11; II Timothy 2:25). Other synonyms for meekness include humbleness, moderation, and forbearance. Opposite traits of meekness or gentleness include arrogance, disdainfulness, and harshness. Words are powerful, and our words and subsequent actions tend to reveal our character. Therefore, we must examine ourselves regarding our motives and intentions as well as the consequences of how we speak and act with those around us. Are we being gentle, or are we arrogantly serving our own purposes? As examples of what God expects of us, we should:

- Live our lives as believers with humility and gentleness, doing what we can to preserve unity among the brethren (Ephesians 4:1-3);
- Pursue, or consciously follow, gentleness (I Timothy 6:11);
- Regard others as more important than ourselves, just as Christ did for us at the cross (Philippians 2:3-8; Romans 12:3, 16);
- Speak with grace, using words that edify instead of demean (Colossians 4:5-6; Ephesians 4:29; 5:3-4);
- Restore fellow brethren who err with gentleness and humility, and bear one another's burdens and forgive each other without boasting or hypocrisy (Galatians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:12-13); and
- Gently and patiently correct those who are in opposition to the truth of God without being quarrelsome or judgmental (II Timothy 2:24-26).

**Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness [meekness]; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.** (Galatians 6:1-3)

**Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign [speak evil of] no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.** (Titus 3:1-2)