WALKING GENTLY

**DATE: 1/27/16 Wed.**

**TEXT: Galatians 5:22, 23**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue to study the Book of Galatians …

We are studying the section that commands us to Walk in the Spirit (**Chp. 5**)

**v.16 *– “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”***

To ***“Walk”*** speaks of the way someone conducts themselves

It should be the desire of every Born Again Believer to want to Honor God

We do this by being Consistence, Steadfast

The only way we’ll be able to do that is by Yielding to the Holy Spirit’s Leading

Yielding requires Hearing and Heeding (serious attention)

**Hebrews 11:6 *– “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”***

It begins with a Faith life, Believing and Obeying God’s Promises and Commands

In **vs. 22 & 23** we find a list of virtues that ought to dominate our life

We have looked at, so far, - *Love, Joy, Peace,* *Longsuffering*

Tonight we will examine the virtue of *Gentleness*

Gentleness is from a word that means *useful, profitable, gracious, kind*

Noah Webster says *Genteel behavior, Softness of manners; mildness of temper; sweetness of disposition; meekness*

Gentleness is best defined as Grace in Action

It speaks of a Genuine and Tender Concern for others

It is the Genuine Desire to treat others with the same Grace that our Lord has shown us

**Quote:** Benjamin Franklin wrote – *“I will speak ill of no man, not even in the matter of truth, but rather excuse the faults I hear, and, upon proper occasions, speak all the good I know of everybody”*

Many people see Gentleness as a weakness, when in reality it is just the opposite

Paul practiced Biblical Gentleness

**I Thessalonians 2:7, 8 – *“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:” “So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us”***

If we are to be Christian workers, we need to remember the Grace and Gentleness with which God dealt with us

(Note Order: Salvation, Sanctification, then Service)

Gentleness is a qualification for Service

**II Timothy 2:24 – *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient”***

There are a lot of good men and women out there who have failed in Service for Christ, not because they were compromisers …

But because they could not keep a balance between Truth and Grace, they got things out of order

Yes … we are to ***“earnestly contend for the faith”***

**Jude 3 –** ***“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”***

But we are Not to do it with a Bad Attitude!

They failed, because they failed to obey the Command to

**“Walk Gently”**

Remember, Gentleness … is Grace in Action!

Gentleness or Kindness is the virtue of the Fruit of the Spirit that will either make or break our Testimony!

In society as a whole, Gentleness is sorely missing

In our church however, Gentleness should be the one thing that is named among us

Let’s stand to read God’s Word – **vs. 22, 23**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. AN “ILLUSTRATION FOR” GENTLENESS**

The Lord Jesus is the Personification of Gentleness

**Psalm 117:1, 2 - *“O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people” “For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the Truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD”***

First, it is seen in …

**A. The ‘Character’ of Jesus**

Jesus did not have to die, yet He voluntarily went to the cross

Turn to **I Peter 2:21-24 …**

Then it is seen in …

**B. The ‘Compassion’ of Jesus**

**1.** In His Kindness, He offers Salvation

Let’s look at a couple of references …

Turn to **Titus 3:4-7 …**

Turn to **Ephesians 2:7-9 …**

Then …

**2.** His Kindness leads to Repentance

**Romans 2:4 *– “Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”***

**AN “ILLUSTRATION FOR” GENTLENESS**

**II. AN “INFUSION OF” GENTLENESS**

We are, of course, Thankful for the Gentleness of God

But the Holy Spirit wants us to be Gentle as well

**To Infuse** is to *add a new or necessary quality or element to something*

How does He do this?

**A. Through ‘Sensitivity’** (Thoughtful)

It doesn’t matter how many verses you have memorized or how many convictions you have …

If we do not have Kindness / Gentleness, none of those things will matter

Believers must be Sensitive to the Needs of Others

**Philippians 2:4, 5 –** ***“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”
“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”***

**Humor:** A man once said to his friend, *“Few things seem to upset my wife” “It makes me feel rather special to know I’m one of them”*

The reality is that we need to be Sensitive

**B. Through ‘Sympathy’**

**Sympathetic –** able to relate to what others are going through

**Romans 12:15 –** ***“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep”***

Turn to **II Timothy 2:24-26 …**

We are to be burdened for the lost / hurting

Why? Because we were there and understand

**C. Through ‘Spontaneity’**

**Spontaneous -** *arising from natural impulse or inclination, rather than from planning or in response to suggestions from others*

It is really a supernatural impulse / a moving of the Holy Spirit

This is what it truly means to walk in the Spirit

**Galatians 6:10 *– “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”***

**“ILLUSTRATION FOR” GENTLENESS**

**“INFUSION OF” GENTLENESS**

**III. AN “INDUCEMENT TO” GENTLENESS**

Why do we need to be Gentle?

**A. We are ‘Empowered’ by the Holy Spirit**

**Ephesians 5:18 – *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”***

Under the influence of the Holy Spirit

Listening always for His still, quiet voice

Instead of living for ourselves, living for others

Where does this need to happen? Everywhere

**1.** In our Homes

Sometimes we seem to have the least amount of Gentleness with those we love most

Instead of acting, we react

However, the Holy Spirit can enable us to be Gentle with our families

A good marriage is not the result of finding the right person;

It is the result of being the right person

Obedience children are the result of the respect we show them

Don’t ridicule them; don’t act like they are an annoyance

Love them, gently lead them

**2.** In our Community

An unkind spirit in our church toward our community will turn people away from the message of Christ

**Ill.** Westboro Baptist

**Colossians 3:12, 13 *– “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;” “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye”***

**1.** To those in Need

Jesus went out of His way to help both the man at the pool of Siloam and the Samaritan woman

Both had very great needs

**2.** To those who oppose us

**Proverbs 25:21, 22 –** ***“If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:” “For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee”***

**3.** In our Church

Again **Galatians 6:10 – *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”***

**B. We are ‘Encouraged’ by the Testimony of Jesus**

When we think of How Jesus forgave us

We are encouraged to show Kindness to others

Turn to **Ephesians 4:30-32 …**

**CONCLUSION**

In a society where Gentleness and Kindness are greatly lacking

As Believers, we must display the Gentleness of Christ to

-- Each other

-- Our families

-- Our community

However, Gentleness will not come to us through perseverance or determination

It will only come as we walk in the Spirit and allow Him to produce Fruit