



Brown CG Zoom Session

Better Together: Gentleness

Titus 3:1-11 – July 5, 2020

I. Starter Questions:

1. What does Gentleness mean to you? How does someone demonstrate gentleness and what does it look like?
2. Think through all the people you know and who comes to mind as the most gentle person you know? Did they exhibit this gentleness all the time to all people or was it only situational?

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Last week we began our study of Humility, Gentleness, Patience, and Forebearance. We focused on Philippians 2 and applied humility toward other people by first addressing our Godly relationship. Without humility we will not have strong relationships, understand others and be able to have a Godly Spirit, even if we are correct in our opinion. Christ cares about our attitude as we deliver messages to others and not whether we are “right all the time”.

To help us get started let's look at the definition of **Gentleness**:

- The quality of being kind, calm, tender or mild mannered
- Softness of action or effect, lightness
- Sensitivity of disposition and kindness of behavior, founded on strength and prompted by love

Titus 3:1-11: Be Ready for Every Good Work

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. ⁹ But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Titus was written by Paul as an instruction to his younger brother in Christ on how to lead the Church well. This passage begins with general instruction and uses a story to illustrate the point: Paul rationalized his time in Asia, though troubling and painful, as a period of growth and salvation for himself and others. Although the word **gentle** is only listed once in the passage, this scripture is a good example of how to develop gentleness further. The following questions

will begin broad and then work to specific application for gentleness in the coming week and beyond.

III. Group Discussion:

1. How is gentleness different from Humility?
2. Why is gentleness important to our Christian character? To help us think through this one, what is the opposite of Gentleness?
3. Why do you think the Bible specifically instructs authority figures to be gentle with the people under their care?
4. In James 3:17-18, how does Godly wisdom influence our ability to be gentle?

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

5. How does our ability to be gentle affect our Christian testimony? Someone compare the sharing of the Gospel in a harsh way versus a gentle way? (2 Tim 2:24-26)
6. What specifically can we do to adopt more of Christ's character and grow in gentleness?

Our Gentleness Test:

- Am I quick to reprimand others, or do I purpose to help them grow in the Lord? (Galatians 6:1.)
- Am I tenderhearted and forgiving toward offenders? (Ephesians 4:31-32.)
- Do I jump to conclusions, or do I listen patiently before speaking? (James 1:19-20.)
- Do my words bless those who hear me? (James 3:9-10.)

IV. Responding in Prayer:

1. Pray for the strife in our church and in our culture. Pray that we might apply humility from last week and gentleness from this week in our testimony and conversation with other Christians.
2. Pray for our church leadership. Pray that they might make wise decisions in the face of a changing world and that our congregation might support them well. Pray that they do not become burned out or anxious in the light of these stresses.