

Danger of Comparisons
Lesson 12– More About Meekness
August 23, 2015

A. Starter Questions

- Have you ever thought about why Meekness is required for Unity of Spirit in the Church?
- How do we get the correct balance between Meekness and standing up for God and His Ways?
- Is Meekness directly related to our level of Joy, Peace, Satisfaction and lack of Stress?

What is Biblical Meekness?

One of the best definitions of meekness is “strength under control”. Meekness does not mean weakness and being a doormat so that everyone can walk all over you. The definition of meekness is someone who is humble, teachable, and patient under suffering. The person who has meekness means that they have the absence of any feelings of being better than others. This also means that they are modest and lowly in spirit.

B. Scriptures for Lesson:

Matthew 11:29; Meekness and Lowliness

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle [meek, KJV] and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Jesus specifically links meekness with lowliness and is explaining why we should embrace His way of life. As our Lord and Master, He is not harsh, overbearing and oppressive, but gentle in His government. His laws are also reasonable and easy to obey; neither He nor they enslave. He emphasizes the gentle aspect of meekness toward others. From this, we begin to see why meekness must be a virtue of those who will receive the Kingdom and govern. Because God governs in meekness, His children must also.

Ephesians 4:1-3; Meekness required for Unity of Spirit

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness [meekness, KJV], with longsuffering, bearing with one another in [love](#), 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The King James version is more accurate, as the Greek text uses *prautes*. "Gentle" and "gentleness" are incorrect because in this context they are only an aspect of the meekness we should express in our dealings with others.

Ephesians 4 teaches how to build and maintain unity within a more social context, and here, *prautes* appears with humility, [patience](#), forbearance and love. Paul demands that, for unity to be built and maintained, we should receive offenses without retaliation, bearing them patiently without a desire for revenge. We are, in short, to have a forgiving spirit. Without it, we will surely promote divisiveness.

Exodus 32:25-29; Meekness Does not mean Christians Just Lie Down

25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. 26 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the Lord, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him. 27 Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.' " 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. 29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the Lord today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

This does not mean the meek will take everything "lying down." Notice Moses, who as we have seen, was the meekest man of his time. He did not hesitate to order the execution of about three thousand of the idolaters who worshipped the Golden Calf while he was with God on the mountain. Against evil this meek man was as stern as steel. How a meek man reacts depends upon what he discerns God's will is for him within the circumstance.

Because the meek man sets his mind on God's purpose and not his own comfort, ambition or reputation, he will offer resistance to evil in defense of God yet react with patience, [kindness](#) and gentleness when others attack him.

Meekness and Trials

Meekness is very important regarding trials since it is the opposite of self-will toward God and of ill-will toward men. In his commentary on [Matthew 5:5](#), Matthew Henry writes, "The meek are those who quietly submit themselves to God, to His word and to His rod, who follow His directions, and comply with His designs, and are gentle towards all men" (p. 1629).

Meekness is the fruit of God by His Spirit working in us. Godly sorrow softens our stiff-necked rebellion and our hearts so that we are made receptive to the workings of the Creator to produce His image in us. Therefore meekness, along with the qualities already mentioned, also includes our becoming pliable, malleable, submissive and teachable.

Meekness enables a person to bear patiently those insults and injuries he receives at the hand of others. It makes him ready to accept instruction from the least of the saints. It allows him to endure provocation without being inflamed by it. He remains cool when others become heated. Meek people seek no private revenge; they leave that to God's sense of justice while they seek to remain true in their calling and meet God's standards.

Zephaniah 2:1-3; Meekness Desired to Be Hid in the Day of the Lord

1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; 2 Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. 3 Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.

Psalm & Isaiah; Scriptures on Meekness

The poor [meek, KJV] shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever! ([Psalm 22:26](#))

Further, "The Lord lifts up the humble (meek, KJV); He casts the wicked down to the ground" ([Psalm 147:6](#)).

The humble [meek, KJV] also shall increase their [joy](#) in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel" ([Isaiah 29:19](#)).

Contentment of mind is one of the fruits of meekness. The haughty and covetous do not inherit the earth. As [Psalm 37:16](#) says, "A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked."

C. Questions for Small Group Discussion:

1. Why does Psalms say our level of happiness and satisfaction come from your degree of Meekness?
2. Discuss how meekness has anything to do with our level of Joy, Peace, stress, satisfaction or contentment? What is the correlation?
3. Read Ephesian 4:1-3; why does Meekness play such an important role in Church Unity? Can you have "Unity of Spirit in the Church" without what Paul describes?
4. Discuss Moses reaction to Gods people worshipping idols, does it sound crazy and extreme? Does today's culture of acceptance make Moses decision sound crazy and possessed?
 - a. Have God's Laws, Holiness or feeling about sin changed from Moses time?
 - b. How can we stand strong for God in today's world but yet exhibit Meekness?
5. How do we get the correct balance between Meekness and standing up for God and His Ways?