

FREE AT LAST! THE MESSAGE OF GALATIANS
April 15, 2010

The Fruitful Gospel: Gentleness – Galatians 5:16-26

I. The Christian man is a gentle man.

5:22

“But the fruit of the Spirit is...gentleness...”

Gentleness, says Webster, is “kindness, amiability, mildness of manners or disposition; not being harsh, stern, or violent.”

Gentleness = using the least measure of force to accomplish godly objectives

cf. Matt. 21:5; Gal. 6:1

II. The gentle man is a strong man.

A. He leads. cf. Numbers 12:3

B. He opposes evil. cf. Matt. 21:12, 13

C. He rebukes friends (when necessary). cf. II Cor. 10:1-6; Gal. 1:6-10; 2:11

III. The gentle man is a humble man.

prautes = gentleness, meekness, humility

tapeinos = humble, lowly, downcast, timid

cf. Matt. 11:29; II Cor. 10:1

“Humility is to make a right estimate of one’s self; it is no humility for a man to think less of himself than he ought.”

--C. H. Spurgeon

“Humility is being who we are in the presence of God, nothing more and nothing less.”

--Sinclair Ferguson

A. The humble man thinks carefully.

“Those who think too much of themselves don’t think enough.”

--Amy Carmichael

1. God is awesome.

cf. Genesis 1; Isa. 6:1-4; Rev. 1:9-20

“The true way to be humble is not to stoop until you are smaller than yourself, but to stand at your real height against some higher nature that will show you what the real smallness of your greatness is.”

--Philips Brooks

2. I am a wretched sinner.

cf. Isa. 6:5; Luke 5:8; 18:9-14; I Tim. 1:15-17

“It is evident that man never attains to a true self-knowledge until he has previously contemplated the face of God, and come down after such contemplation to look into himself.”

--John Calvin

3. I am a saved sinner.

cf. Isa. 6:6, 7; Rom. 3:27, 28; I Cor. 1:26-31; 4:7

“Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends.”

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

B. The humble man walks carefully.
cf. Micah 6:6-8

1. He renounces his pride.
cf. Gal. 5:20

“Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important.”

--T. S. Eliot

“There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which every one in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves. I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have ever heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice. And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone, who was not a Christian, who showed the slightest mercy to it in others. There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it in ourselves the more we dislike it in others.”

--C. S. Lewis

2. He imitates Christ.
cf. Matt. 11:28-30; 12:20; 18:1-4; 20:20-28; 21:5; 23:11, 12; Phil. 2:1-11

IV. The gentle man is a blessed man.

cf. Matt. 5:5; Psa. 37:11
‘anaw = the meek man

- A. God teaches him.
cf. Psa. 25:9

“Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil’s reach as humility.” --Jonathan Edwards
“If I only had a little humility, I’d be perfect.” --Ted Turner

- B. God sustains him.
cf. Psa. 147:6

- C. God saves him.
cf. Psa. 149:4; I Peter 5:5; Prov. 3:34; II Chron. 7:14

- D. God exalts him.
cf. I Peter 5:6; James 4:6, 10