

“Being Gentle”

2 Tim. 2:24-26

Introduction

- I. Christianity requires a person to be both strong, yet gentle (1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:1-2; Gal. 5:22-23).
- II. Let us see what it means to be gentle, and then let us make sure that we are.

Discussion

- I. What does it mean to be gentle?
 - A. In the King James Version, we find the words gentle, gentleness, and gently.
 1. Study shows that those words denote being “affable, mild, kind, appropriate, seemly, suitable, equitable, fair, condescension, modesty, meekness, clemency, useful, moral excellence, moral goodness, integrity, to move softly, softness, to lead with care.”
 2. We know gentleness when we see it, and we know the opposite of gentleness when we see it (nurses, mothers, fathers...).
- II. Biblical examples of being gentle
 - A. Paul's dealings with the church of the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 2:7-8).
 - B. Abraham when dealing with Lot and his herdsmen (Gen. 13:18-19).
 - C. Jesus when dealing with different people (John 8:10-11; Luke 22:31-32; 23:34).
- III. Why is being gentle sometimes so difficult?
 - A. The whole world lies in wickedness (1 John 5:19).
 - B. Because of ungentle enemies (Psm. 38:19).
 - C. Emotions (Prov. 14:17; 27:4; cf. Eph. 4:26; Titus 1:7).
- IV. What are times when we need to be gentle?
 - A. When dealing with new and growing Christians (2 Cor. 10:1).
 - B. When restoring the erring (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20).
 - C. When a brother or sister is restored (2 Cor. 2:6-8).
 - D. When a brother or sister sins against us (Matt. 18:15).
 - E. When someone is angry at us (Prov. 15:1).
 - F. When dealing with enemies (Matt. 5:44).

Conclusion

- I. Each Christian needs to learn when to be strong and gentle.
- II. Gentleness is not weakness!