

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Gentleness: 1 Corinthians 3:3-7; 3:21-4:7

August 30, 2020

WORSHIP

Take a moment to remind yourself why you are still meeting together during quarantine: To grow as disciples of Jesus by cultivating our relationship with God and friendship with others.

Listen to a song of worship: [Gracefully Broken](#) - Tasha Cobbs or [The Old Rugged Cross](#) - Chris Rice

Or read Psalm 131 together:

¹ My heart is not proud, Lord, my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.
² But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child I am content.
³ Israel, put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore.

INTRODUCTION

Gentleness connotes a sense of contentment both in who we are and in the circumstances around us. For a Christian, this sense of wellness of soul and situation comes from rooting his identity in Christ's limitless love and good purposes for every believer (Romans 8:28-30). This rooted identity grows into gentle humility that is neither inferior nor superior to others, but rather is self-forgetful, for the Christian need not strive to earn or achieve because she has already received what matters most. The Christian bearing the fruit of gentleness need not judge himself or others, for he has received the mercy of God and can, in confidence and full acceptance, offer mercy to others. Thus, Christians grow the fruit of gentle humility by being freed of self-absorption, able to count the concerns of others more important than their own (Philippians 2:3).

SCRIPTURE

20 MINUTES

Read the following Scripture together. Then respond through the questions below.

1 Corinthians 3:3-7; 3:21-4:7 New International Version (NIV)

³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

²¹ So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

¹ This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God

has revealed. ² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. ³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

⁶ Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. ⁷ For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

- ▶ What problem in the Corinthian church is Paul addressing (vv. 3:3-7)?
- ▶ What things might we boast in? What are the results of boasting? Does Paul preclude all boasting?
- ▶ What is instructive to you in Paul's admonition about self-regard? How might this attitude influence your choices in relationships, at work or in your neighborhood (vv. 4:2-4)? Be as specific as you can.
- ▶ How did Jesus live in humility and gentleness? What difference would it make if this were true in your life also?

GOING FURTHER THIS WEEK

Use the [weekly devotion guide](#) to go deeper on the topic of gentleness.

FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER

25 MINUTES

- ▶ Pray for each other to grow in the fruit of gentleness in the particular ways shared today.
- ▶ Pray for those who do not know the hope of Christ by using the below prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, especially...

[members of the group name particular people].

For the honor of your Name. Amen.

Then with the Scripture discussion in mind, pray for each other and the particular needs in our city and world.

- ▶ Want to continue meditating on Scripture throughout the week? Join Virtual Noonday prayer: eastside.redeemer.com/prayer