

Christian Character – Meekness Ps. 37:1-11

Introduction:

Col. 3:12-14 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; {13} bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. {14} But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

“Meekness” is also translated as “gentleness” or “humility.”

Because of this, we can see how it is closely associated with humility.

- I. Meaning of Meekness
- II. Manifestation of Meekness (Examples of meekness in the Bible)
- III. Making the Most of Meekness (Applying meekness to our lives).

I. Meaning of Meekness

- A. There are two views of meekness.
 1. Negative
 - a. Meekness is viewed as weakness.
 - b. Someone who is meek is often viewed as a lazy person.
 - c. A meek person is one who is said to compromise or have “peace at any price.”
 2. Positive
 - a. According to Nelson’s Bible Dictionary, meekness is “*An attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from a recognition that God is in control.*”
 - b. Meekness is “strength under control.”
 - c. In the time of Christ, when someone would tame an animal, it was said that the animal was meek (their strength was under control.)
 - d. Meekness is not weakness, but rather it is strength.
- B. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus quotes from Ps. 37:11.
 1. Mt. 5:5 - **Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**
 2. Ps. 37 is a psalm about meekness.
 - a. The overall theme of the psalm is “The blessings of the righteous, and the destruction of the wicked.”
 - b. **Ps. 37:1-11**
 3. To be meek means to:
 - a. Do not fear evildoers or their deeds (37:1).
 - b. Put your trust in God (37:3-6).
 - c. We rest in the Lord (37:7).
 - d. We wait upon the Lord (37:9-10).

- e. To be meek means that we control our strength by making a conscience decision to put our faith in God!
- C. Meekness looks up to God and out to men.

II. Manifestation of Meekness (Examples of meekness in the Bible)

- A. Abraham
 - 1. God had blessed Abraham with tremendous blessings.
 - a. **Gen. 12:1-3** - Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. {2} I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. {3} I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
 - b. Abraham was very wealthy and had a great number of possessions.
 - 2. Even with all this wealth and fame, Abraham is a very meek person.
 - a. **Gen. 13** – Abraham gives Lot the choice of the land when there was a division among them.
 - b. **Gen. 14** – Abraham rescues Lot when he is captured.
 - c. **Gen. 18** – Abraham intercedes for Sodom before it is destroyed.
- B. Moses
 - 1. Moses also was a man that had a tremendous gift from God.
 - a. Moses showed his meekness when he went to Egypt and demanded that Pharaoh free the Israelites (**Ex. 5-12**).
 - b. Moses demonstrated his meekness when he pleaded for God to save Israel instead of destroying them (**Num. 14**).
 - 2. Notice what is said about Moses.
 - a. **Num. 12:3** - (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)
 - b. **Heb. 11:24-27** - By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, {25} choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, {26} esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. {27} By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.
- C. Jesus
 - 1. Jesus showed meekness in all aspects of life.
 - a. He was constantly showing compassion towards others as they needed it.
 - b. When Jesus was wronged, He took it patiently (**I Pet. 2:18-25**).
 - 2. Many times we see paintings or pictures of Jesus that depict Him as a weak person.
 - a. However, notice:
 - 1) Picture came from a drunk in a bar.

- 2) If He was weak, He could not have intimidated those in the temple to flee when He cleansed it.
 - 3) If He were weak, He would not have stood up to the Pharisees the way He did in **Mt. 23**.
- b. The fact of the matter is that Jesus had great strength, but His strength was under control.
- 1) **Mt. 11:28-29** - Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
 - 2) This is the only compliment that Jesus paid to Himself.

III. Making the Most of Meekness

- A. Notice why we need meekness.
1. To receive God's word.
 - a. **Js. 1:21** - Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
 2. To be able to teach others.
 - a. **II Tim. 2:24-26** - And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, {25} in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, {26} and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.
 3. To restore the fallen Christian.
 - a. **Gal. 6:1** - Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
 4. To give a reason for our hope.
 - a. **I Pet. 3:15** - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
 5. Meekness is important in living the Christian life.
 - a. **Eph. 4:1-3** - 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, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, {3} endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- B. If meekness is not added to our lives, we are not putting on the new man (**Col. 3**).
1. If we are not putting on the new man, we are not pleasing to God.
 2. If we are not pleasing to God, we have no hope of eternal life with Him.
 3. It is important that we learn to put on meekness.
 4. Meekness is not natural, but rather it is a fruit of the Spirit.

- a. Gal. 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Conclusion:

MEEKNESS

An attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from a recognition that God is in control. Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same. Weakness is due to negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or lack of courage. But meekness is due to a person's conscious choice. It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness.

The apostle Paul once pointed out that the spiritual leaders of the church have great power, even leverage, in confronting a sinner. But he cautioned them to restrain themselves in meekness <Gal. 6:1; 5:22-23>. Even toward evil men, a man of God should be meek, knowing that God is in control.

Meekness is a virtue practiced and commended by our Lord Jesus <Matt. 5:5; 11:29>. As such it is part of the equipment which every follower of Jesus should wear <2 Cor. 10:1; Gal. 5:23; 6:1; Eph. 4:1-2>.

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

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