

Goodness: The Faithfulness of God

4/19/2020

1. **Love:** Unconditional/sacrificial concern/loyalty for the well-being of others.
2. **Joy:** Deep, internal godly gladness often externally expressed by rejoicing.
3. **Peace:** Absence of tension/conflict and deep assurance of God's presence.
4. **Patience:** Longsuffering within trials without complaining or getting angry.
5. **Kindness:** Compassion in action. Benevolent friendliness in words/deeds.
6. **Goodness:** Righteousness in action. Choosing and following moral good. It involves doing what is right and is a summation of His nature and character.
7. **Faithfulness:** Reliable, steadfast, unwavering, remaining true to God's Word and calling-- keeping promises and persevering in the midst of trials; can be trusted.

Gentleness: Strength under control

5/17/2020

- I. **Gentleness:** Calm and non-threatening; sensitivity and tenderness in treating others. Humility and thankfulness toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others. Meekness (not weakness)—strength under God's control.

II. The Importance of meekness

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [following Me as My disciple], for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest (renewal, blessed quiet) for your souls. Mt 11:29

III. Some of the benefits of meekness:

1. Meek People get saved.

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the meek" (Isaiah 61:1). The Psalmist wrote, "The LORD takes pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with **salvation**" (Psalm 149:4). He will "save all the meek of the earth" (Psalm 76:9).

2. Meek people get sanctified.

"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." (James 1:21).

3. Meek people get direction and serve Him.

"He guides the meek in what is right and teaches them his way. (Psalm 25:9)

IV. What it is not: Not an excuse to be passive or soft without any expectations.

- V. **What it is:** It describes Jesus and the way His spirit creates fruit in our lives by transforming us into His image. Constrains and channels power.

"The greatness of man's power is the measure of his surrender." —William Booth

VI. Gentle people are...

1. Not Fighters, but Forgivers. Gentle people are good at forgiving even when they don't feel like it because they understand what it means to be crucified with Christ Gal 2:20. If you don't forgive others not only is God not going to forgive you, but also you make a mockery of the cross—Jesus said he died for ALL sins.

2. Not Fearful, but prayerful . Prayer don't panic! God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim 1:7; Phil 4: 5,6

3. Not Demanding, but Understanding. Disciples were driven often by condemnation not compassion. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10
Gentleness is wisdom—doing what God wants to do in the way God wants to do it. Be like a thermostat not a thermometer—influence your surroundings!

4. Not Impatient, but Patient. Gentle people are good at longsuffering. They look **past the fault and see the need, asking why and then asking God how to fix it.**

5. Not Selfish, but Unselfish. It is concerned about how others feel and will take it. It's like an antibody that keeps you from destroying yourself and others, sound wisdom, calm, and humble ready to resist pride.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter **envy and selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have **envy and selfish ambition**, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3

There are two ways of meeting difficulties: You alter the difficulty, or you alter yourself to meet them by the power of God.

Homework questions: Do you pass this test on gentleness or meekness?

- Have you dedicated yourself to God and yielded all your rights to Him?
- Do you have full confidence that God controls all that happens to you?
- Is it your goal to become more like the Lord Jesus Christ?

Understanding Humility

5/31/2020

Humility: When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs 11:2 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (Proverbs 3:34, 1Peter 5:5, James 4:6.) The Bible describes humility as meekness, lowliness, and absence of self. The Greek word translated "humility" literally means "lowliness of mind." Humility is a heart attitude, not merely an outward demeanor.

Humble yourself in the sight of God. Deflate your inflated pride. Don't think less of yourself (it's okay to have a healthy "pride" for yourself and your loved ones), but think of yourself less—not too high or low. Here is the difference:

Putting yourself first. Saying, "I'm number one." will ascend above..."Isa 14:12-14

Relational superiority—thinking that you are better than everyone else-- arrogant.

Independence from God – Leaning on your own understanding—no help needed!

Dependence on self—"I know what's best for me & how to get it to please myself."

Exalting self—"What's best is what's best for me. I look out for my own interest. I love me!"

Hatred of evil = *the fear of God*. Proverbs 8:13-- HATE evil-- don't even tolerate it!

Understanding your origins—"I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Ps 119:114

Modest view of oneself—"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Being thankful to God for **His** mercy—"O God be merciful to me. I'm a sinner."

Leaning not on your own understanding. "In all your ways acknowledge Him."

Exalting our eternal God—understanding our destiny. "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73:25-26

Five biblical motivational influences for becoming humble.

Faithful gathering and study of the word of God-- "Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and **fear** the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to **fear** the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land."(Deut.31:12,13) "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Tim 3:16)

Examine God's creation-- "When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with **fear**. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."(Exodus 20:18,19) "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

Apply your heart to understanding-- "...turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding...then you will understand the **fear** of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." (Prov 2:2) Pray. "Confess Jesus as Lord." (Phil 2:10)

Recognize the **wrath** of God-- "There is no **fear** of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18 "For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay, and again, "The Lord will judge his people." "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:30, 31) (W) **R**ighteous **A**nger **T**owards **H**umans See John 3: 21-36

Strong hatred towards sin-- "To **fear** the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech." (Proverbs 8:13)

Questions to consider:

1. What aspect of PRIDE do you struggle with the most? Why do you think this is?
2. Do you have a too high or low of a view of yourself? Do you love/respect God?
3. What do you most enjoy about your time studying His word? Be specific.
4. Have you grown in your obedience to God's will? In what way recently?
5. Do you have a healthy respect for God? Do you think about the consequences?
6. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
7. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?