

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## ***The Power of Gentleness...***

*In a hostile world*

**Galatians 5:22-23**, The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

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*What comes to mind when you think of gentleness?*

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*Dictionaries refer to gentleness as tender, patient, kindly...*

- **Not** harsh or rough

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*Can gentleness make you vulnerable in this hostile world?*

- Yes, maybe. But gentleness is a fruit of love (**I Cor. 13:4-8**)
- And real love remains uncorrupted by adversity
- There is nothing more vulnerable than love
- Love does not need to protect or defend itself

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*Who comes to mind when you think of gentleness?*

- Someone you are, or have been safe with
- Someone you are willingly vulnerable to...
- But not at risk with
- Do you think of them as strong?

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**Matthew 11:29**, "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."

- A promise from Jesus
- Do we want to be like Him?
- **His rest** subdues what our rest cannot (**Heb.3:7-4:16**)

*Just as Kindness & Goodness are translated from the same word...*

- Gentleness & Meekness both come from the same word
- Gentleness is meek, & meekness is gentle

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"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I **am gentle/meek** and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

- **Meekness is not weakness**

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**Colossians 1:15-17**, He is the image of the invisible God... For **by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth... All things were created through Him and for Him... and **in Him all things consist.** (**John 1:3**)

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**Colossians 2:9-10**, For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and **you are complete in Him**, who is the head of **all principality and power.**

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*The gentle & meek Jesus **created & maintains the entire Universe!***

*The same **Source** of gentleness & power found in the fruit of the Spirit*

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**John 16:13-14**, "However, when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority... He will glorify Me, for **He will take of what is Mine** and declare it to you."

- Declare = Rehearse (**John 1:18**)

Everything the Holy Spirit offers & demonstrates for us...

- He obtains from the powerful gentleness of **who Jesus is**
- Remember, none of these fruit are **separate** or **individual**
- They are collaborative & interdependent

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We need to discard our earthly sense of power & influence

- **God does not use it** to establish & rule **His kingdom!**
- Earthly power & conquest is a violation of Christ's demonstrated power

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**John 18:36**, Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world**. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but **now** My kingdom is not from here."

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So... **Who** will Jesus hand the New Earth over to?

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**Matthew 5:5**, "Blessed are the meek/gentle, for they **shall inherit the earth.**"

- Those **who love with the power of Christ's meekness/gentleness?**
- Or those who conquer by majority rule, or force?

**Romans 12:1-2**, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

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"And **do not be conformed to this world**"

- We need to think differently
- If it's not like Jesus, it's worldly & **not of His kingdom!**

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**Romans 12:21**, Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**.

- Overcome in **who we are** in Christ Jesus

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I'll remind you from last week...

- Any departure from who Christ is, is evil
- Simply because it leaves Him out
- Operating on our own terms is what Eve did
- It won't go any better now than it did then

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**Colossians 2:8-10**, Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and **you are complete in Him**, who is **the head of all principality and power**.

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**Matthew 10:16**, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

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**Galatians 5:22-23**, The fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, **gentleness**, self-control.