

2 Corinthians 10:1: THE MEEKNESS AND GENTLENESS OF CHRIST

TWO QUALITIES TO CONSIDER

1. THE MEEKNESS OF CHRIST. We see this in:

1. In his lowly birth. "Born in a Manger" prefigured his whole life.
2. His humble station in life. Highest in heaven - Lowest on earth.
3. His obedience to his parents: Joseph and Mary. Obedience was new to him. He was the Ruler; yet he submitted to be ruled.
 1. Luke 2:51, 52; "And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them; but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. 52-And Jesus increased in wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and Man."
 2. Philippians 2:8; "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death."
 3. Hebrews 5:8,9; "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9- And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."
4. His manual toil. The Jews looked for a conqueror and came face to face with a carpenter.
5. His endurance of scorn and insult. All of you must be familiar to a degree with all the he suffered.
6. His earthly poverty. He possessed all things; and yet had nothing; not even a place where to lay his head.
 1. Paul's great paradoxes. 2 Cor, 6:8-10. Especially verse 10.
 2. Luke 9:58; "And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."
 3. 2 Corimthinas 8:9; "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."
7. His bearing before the Sanhedrim, Pilate, Herod, the soldiers Etc.
 1. How little and mean they were to him and yet he did not crush them as he could have.
8. Though meek and gentle, Christ was full of power and majesty.
 1. To be meek is not to be weak. Examples:
 1. Numbers 12:3; "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth."
 2. Flowers of meekness: Simplicity, tenderness, humility, are marks of the truly great: the meek man.
 1. These flowers are not found in the vally: they grow on the mountain top.
 2. Meekness is not self-assertiveness.
 1. The man who is always anxious to "Assert himself" usually has very little to assert.
 2. the man who is always anxious "to speak his mind" usually says very little when he "speaks his mind."
 2. When we are meek we are the strongest and most like Christ.
 1. If we possess the meekness of Christ we will: Be better, Live better; Worship better; Work better; We will love more.

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We now consider:

2. THE GENTLENESS OF CHRIST. We see this in:

1. His treatment of little children.

1. His words "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid Luke 18:6 them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." See also: Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 10:13-16; Matthew 19:13-15.

2. His conduct toward the poor, the sick, the bereaved, the penitent.

1. Isaiah 42:3; "A bruised reed shall he not break..."
 1. The image represents the weak and distressed in spirit, the lowly and dejected.
 1. With such Christ would deal tenderly: not violently.

3. His words.

1. Isaiah 42:2; "He shall not cry, nor lift up, (his voice) nor cause his voice to be heard in the street."
 1. His method shall be quiet and gentle: Unobtrusive.
 2. He will not seek to commend his teaching by clamor or by noisy demonstrations.

4. In the quietness of his method.

1. He might have taken the way of the warrior, who seeks to secure his ends by the rattle of arms and the thunder of the cannon.
2. But, "he did not strive, nor cry, nor cause his voice to be heard in the streets."

5. His care of his mother. Examples:

1. 1 Kings 2:19; "And the king (Solomon) rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her..."
 1. He sat down on his throne.
 2. He caused a seat to be set for the king's mother.
 3. She sat on his right hand.
2. Our history has no more touching incident then expressed in the words of Jesus when on the cross he said unto his mother:
 1. John 19:26; "Woman, behold thy son!"

3. PAUL AND HIS DETRACTORS. Paul's desire in dealing with them:

1. A strong desire to deal with them in the spirit of Christ.

1. What ever i say in my defence, I would say it in the spirit of him, "who, when he was reviled, reviled not again." 1 Pet. 2:21-23; "For even here- unto were we called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps: 22-Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23-Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."

2. A dread of exercising severity towards them.

1. 2 Corinthians 10:2; "But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, where- with I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh."
 1. It is always characteristic of a great soul to shrink from inflicting pain on any heart. Yet when duty calls it must be done.

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