

Gentleness

“Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” –Colossians 3:12

“But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love perseverance, and gentleness.” –I Timothy 6:11

We are reminded in several New Testament passages that our demeanor as believers is to be one of gentleness; in fact, in I Timothy we are told to *pursue* gentleness. We are called to be gentle because we are to model the character of our Lord, who proclaimed that He was the Good Shepherd. This is an amazingly tender characterization which recalls all the passages throughout the Old Testament where we see references to a shepherd and his flock that symbolize the beautiful relationship between God and His people. In passages such as Ezekiel 34:11-16 and Isaiah 40:11, we read of Him tenderly carrying His sheep, binding their wounds, and seeking out the lost lambs. Jesus' description of Himself in Matthew 11:29 is "...I am gentle and humble in heart". He treats both his own flock and the lost and hurting lambs with gentleness; yet often we are far from gentle not only when dealing with others, but also when judging ourselves. Remember the gentleness of Christ as you seek to become molded into His image.

“[Gentleness] may well be called the Christian spirit. It is the distinguishing disposition in the hearts of Christians...All who are truly godly and are real disciples of Christ have a gentle spirit in them.”—Jonathan Edwards

Be conscious today of showing a spirit of gentleness to everyone you encounter, and also of giving yourself the grace of gentleness instead of self-criticism.