

Fruits of the Spirit

Part 7
Gentleness



But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23 NLT

GENTLENESS IS A KEY TO
GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

Gentleness is not weakness; it's
strength under control.

GOD MODELS GENTLENESS
FOR US:

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29:

*He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will
gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry
them in his bosom, and gently lead those that
are with young. Isaiah 40:11*

*A bruised reed he will not break, and a
smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
Isaiah 42:3*

Your gentleness has made me great.
2 Samuel 22:36 NKJV

GOD WANTS US TO SHOW
GENTLENESS TO OTHERS

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient,
bearing with one another in love.*

Ephesians 4:2

THE BIBLE CALLS FOR
GENTLENESS IN ALL OF OUR
RELATIONSHIPS.

- A husband is to be gentle with his wife.

*Husbands, love your wives and do not be
harsh with them. Colossians 3:19*

*The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Proverbs 12:18*

*As a man of God...pursue what God
approves of: godliness, faith, love,
endurance, and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11*

*Ruth said to Boaz, “You are very kind to me.
You have made me feel better by speaking
gently to me”...So then at lunchtime, Boaz said
to Ruth, “Come, have a piece of bread with me
and dip it in the sauce”...Ruth 2:13-14
Today’s English Version*

- Fathers are to be gentle with their children.

*Fathers, do not embitter your children, or
they will become discouraged.
Colossians 3:21 NIV*

*Parents, don't come down too hard on your
children or you'll crush their spirits.
Colossians 3:21 Message*

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, do not exasperate them to the point of resentment...but bring them up tenderly, with lovingkindness in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4
Amplified

- A wife is to cultivate a gentle and quiet spirit.

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 1 Peter 3:3-4 NIV

- Leaders need to cultivate gentleness.

2 Corinthians 10:1 NLT

*Now I, Paul, appeal to you with
the gentleness and kindness of Christ—
though I realize you think I am timid in person
and bold only when I write from far away.*

TWO BENEFITS OF GENTLENESS:

1. Gentleness diffuses conflict.

*Prov 15:1. A gentle answer turns away
wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

When other people raise their
voice, you lower yours!

If your boss is angry with you, don't quit. A quiet, gentle spirit can overcome even great mistakes. Ecclesiastes 10:4 NLT

Your conversation should be so sensible and logical that anyone who wants to argue will be ashamed of himself because there won't be anything to criticize in anything you say!

Titus 2:8 Living Bible

2. Gentleness is persuasive.

*A gentle word can get through to the
hard-headed. Proverbs 25:15 NCV*

*Gentle speech breaks down rigid
defenses. Proverbs 25:15 Message*

*Patience and gentle talk can convince any ruler (boss) and overcome any problem.
Proverbs 25:15 CEV*

*A wise, mature person is known for
understanding. The more pleasant his words,
the more persuasive he is. Proverbs 16:21
Today's English Version*

I'm never persuasive when
I'm abrasive!