Intro: Gentleness, wow - when we think of gentleness we think of weak-kneed people with no backbone. A softy that runs in times of trouble and this is not the biblical picture of gentleness. Some of the toughest people I know have the most-gentle spirit. Gentleness (Calmness) has to do with a moral character and behavior rather than someone is who you think is a softy. The apostle Paul uses the ministry to point out the strength and power of having the gentle fruit of the Spirit.

I. Gentleness will show itself of good works – 1 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.

a. Gentleness is not foolish

• Don’t think for a moment that if you have a more gifted gentle fruit of the Spirit that you are somehow being foolish, or that your gentleness is looked at as being foolish, I want you to think through this again. Paul one of the most powerful missionaries, one of the most powerful writers in church history, showed his greatest strength by being gentle to one of His churches he founded through his mission work for Christ.

b. Gentleness will produce results

• Paul reminds us here that even a gentle ministry can be a successful one if God is in it. There was a reason why Pual was coming to them, and a reason why Paul had to show his gentle spirit in this point and time. Why? Paul needed results not enemies.

II. We Can be gentle and be bold in our preaching – 2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.

a. Gentleness will not exempt you from suffering

b. Gentleness will be bold in its preaching and teaching

• Just because you have been mistreated does not stop you from being gentile to others. In fact, Paul said Hey you know how we suffered and was mistreated at Philippi, but we are here and going to minister to you with gentleness and respect, despite all that we went through. Just because we are called to be a gentle fruit does not mean we can't be bold in our preaching the gospel.

III. Gentleness is moral in its character – 3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive,

a. Gentle Christian will live clean lives

• God is calling for us to live clean and righteous lives, not perfect lives, but clean. You can’t live a perfect life, but you can live a clean live. I take a bath routinely and I’m mean all the time. It is my weakness; I don’t like to be dirty. I know I’m not going to get all the dirt off, but I know I’m clean. I’m not a perfect Christian but I’m clean. Jesus did wash my sins away, but I still have to ask for forgiveness when I do sin.

° 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:9-10

b. Gentle Christians will be honest to others

• It is makes senses that gentleness and honesty can't be separated - "For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive"

° 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. 2 Corinthians 4:2

IV. A gentle Christian will please God not mankind – 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

a. Preaching the truth isn't always popular

• We have lost the art of preaching the Gospel with compassion. It is entertainment, it is showmanship, it is me-ism religion, and very rarely is it the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Gentile Christians will tell, teach, and preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ without any of the extra craticular activities.

° 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. John 17:17-19

b. The world will not always accept the truth

• Some will accept it, some will reject it, and some are in the middle and cant’ decide. But one thing is for sure, a gentile Christian will always present the gospel in love and respect.

° 4 But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. Acts 14:4

V. Gentle ministries will be a straight-talking Ministry – 5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed— God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.

a. Gentile ministries will not care about your feelings

• I know that this is not what is taught today, but if you are gentle in your spirit, you will not withhold the truth from someone. Now you may be careful on how say things, and on what you say, that will take a gentil spirit, but to withhold the truth from somebody is not having a gentile spirit.

b. Gentile Ministries are not greedy in their work

• In Mathew 6:1-4 Jesus talks about this very thing. When we give, give for the right reasons. Don’t expect to get something in return. God does not stop giving to us, but instead gives to us more abundantly. Greedy people that give to God expect a big return, gentile Christians give to God who has already given to us.

c. Gentile Ministries do not seek glory from others

• This is one of my greatest problems with the church today. Ministers that are not called into the ministry by God and are seeking to use the ministry to get rich, to fill their wish list, and it goes on and on. Real gentle ministries will always seek to glorify God without bringing attention to themselves.

VI. Gentleness is a loving laboring ministry – 7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

a. A Gentle Ministry will care for her children

• Just like a mother would nurse her child, a gentle ministry will have that a spirit, of love, patience, caring, and sacrifice for the new converts. This church was full of new Christians that has just started in their walk with God, and Paul is telling them that they were to be taken care of with the gentleness of the Spirit, through Paul.

b. A Gentle Ministry is a picture of Christ to world

• What a picture of being gentle to a hurting world. This is what a gentle spirit is, people with caring hearts.

VII. A Gentle Ministry is not afraid of doing the work of the church – 9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

a. Gentile will be on call day or night

• Just as a mother would care for her children day and night A none stop continues devotion of gentle, compassion, is a must for you to have a gentle spirit.

b. Others will see the importance of a Gentile Ministry

• This gentle fruit will impress those around you and will encourage those around to be a better Christian.

VIII. A Gentle Spirit will tenderly teach Christ’s truths – 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

a. We should gently care for each other

b. We should also gently instruct each

1. Exhorts – to: direct, guides and teaches

2. Comfort – to: encourages, consoles, supports, ease pains

3. Charges – to: testify, witness, protect, and warn

4. Example – to: walk worthy of God or worthy of your calling.