

## Lesson 7

## How to Apply Meekness (1)

Previously we have defined meekness and considered the passages that demand that we be meek as the Lord was meek. In this study we will list some areas wherein we need to apply meekness. Remember that meekness involves: (a) humility toward God and man, (b) submission to God's will, (c) accepting the discipline we receive, (d) gentleness and mildness, and (e) self-control or inner mastery or strength.

### Receive the Word with Meekness

James wrote, "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (Jas. 1:21).

This means that we will accept and do what the word says. We will not question and doubt. We will believe and do. None of us is wise enough to sit in judgment on God and question what his word says (Rom.

11:34). Therefore, with meekness (humility and submission) we accept what God says.

It is not uncommon to see people who pass what the word of God says through the process of human reasoning, to see if they think it is acceptable or not. If it doesn't fit their own wisdom, they reject it. That doesn't just happen among the denominations either!

One who is meek is teachable. He is willing to listen and be taught. He has an open mind (Acts 17:11). One who is meek never resents being shown the truth.

### Teach with Meekness

Paul instructed the young preacher Timothy saying, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, IN MEEKNESS instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:24-25, emphasis mine DVR).

As we give our defense for our faith, we are to do so with meekness. Peter said, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15).

One who seeks to teach others must himself submit to the message that is taught (1 Tim. 4:16). The Jews didn't have much success in trying to change the Gentiles while they were guilty of

the same sins they condemned (Rom. 2).

He must not be an arrogant, know-it-all as he seeks to instruct others. Rather, he must be open to learning himself. One who teaches must not be condescending or talk down to those he teaches. We must not confuse confidence, as a teacher, with arrogance. We must be confident of our ability as well as the message. But that is not necessarily arrogance.

Furthermore, as we teach we may have to endure some hardness as a soldier (2 Tim. 2:3). There will be times we will take a little



heat for what we have taught. Learning to bear with that is part of meekness.

The use of some tact and gentleness makes our teaching more effective than a “cram-it-down-your-throat” approach.

### Correct Sin with Meekness

When a brother or sister is guilty of sin, those who are spiritual are instructed to “restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Gal. 6:1). As we go to our fellow Christian, we cannot approach him with a

**As we go to our fellow Christian, we cannot approach him with a “better-than-thou” (self-righteous) attitude.**

“better-than-thou” (self-righteous) attitude. We cannot afford to look down our noses at him as to say, “How dare you to be guilty of sin.”

Our approach will be more successful if we: (1) are humble, (2) realize it could happen to us, (3) don’t leave the impression that we think we are guiltless (1 John 1:8), and (4) show our love and compassion. This doesn’t suggest that we take a soft approach in dealing with sin. It just means that we deal with it and the sinner with a spirit of meekness.

## Questions

1. What does meekness involve? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. How does meekness apply to receiving the word? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How does meekness apply to teaching? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. How does meekness apply to correcting sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**NOTES**

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5. If we are meek, we will accept and do what the word says. We will not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

We will \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

6. What does it mean to pass the word “through the process of human reasoning”? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_.

7. List some qualities that one might have who attempts to teach, but is not meek. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_.

8. What is the difference in “confidence” and “arrogance”? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_.

9. As we seek to correct others, our approach will be more successful if we:  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_

10. List any practical lessons you have learned from this lesson.  
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