

Lesson 8

How to Apply Meekness (2)

In Lesson 7 we saw that we must receive the word, teach others, and correct sin with meekness. This lesson continues to explore how to apply meekness in our lives.

Deal with Problems and Disagreements with Meekness

In Ephesians Paul urges all Christians to strive toward unity. In the fourth chapter he mentions some of the attitudes that will help promote unity. He writes, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:2-3).

Problems and disagreements can disrupt the unity that a local church enjoys. If we all had meekness in dealing with church problems and disagreements, few if any divisions would occur. With meekness the first question will always be "What does the Lord want?" or "What is right?" The question will not be, "What do I want?" With meekness we will control our tongues (Jas. 1:19,

26). The tongue causes many, if not most, of the problems and disagreements in local churches.

James tells us that division and strife come from our own lust and a self-seeking spirit (Jas. 3:14-4:2). It is interesting that this discussion starts in the same chapter that deals with the misuse of the tongue. James also points out that where this spirit exists, there is confusion and every evil thing (v. 16).

If we all had meekness in dealing with church problems and disagreements, few if any divisions would occur.

With meekness we will not insist on our "rights." Rather, we will waive those rights for the sake of the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 9). With meekness, we will not easily come to blows with those with whom we disagree.

See the Appendix: "Dealing With Others."

Meekness as a Characteristic of Our Whole Life

Meekness is not merely a "tool" that we pull out when we are teaching or being taught, etc. It is a quality that should characterize our life. All Christians, not just some, should be meek. The fruit of the spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Gal. 5:22-23). All Christians are instructed to "put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (Col. 3:12).

In another lesson we will focus on temperance and see areas wherein we need to apply it.



Questions

1. How does meekness apply to dealing with problems and disagreements among brethren?

2. How does meekness relate to our whole life? _____

3. When we are meek it will not be a matter of what _____

want, but what _____

_____ wants.

4. How do our "rights" relate to meekness? _____

5. What is the root of most church problems? (Be prepared to explain in class). _____

6. How does one "put on . . . meekness" (Col. 3:12)? _____

NOTES

7. Think of some other passages (and principles) that show we should use meekness in dealing with problems and disagreements. Remember these passages may not (and probably will not) have the word "meekness" in them. _____

8. List some other areas (besides those that are listed in lessons 7 and 8) wherein we should apply meekness? _____

9. For class discussion: Why are some Christians not meek?

10. List any practical lessons you have learned from lesson 8.
