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## PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF TRUTH

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### Summer Fruit: Meekness—Galatians 5:22-23

1. Read Mark 11:15-19 and then the following quote from Haddon Robinson's book, *Salt and Light*.

"The word meek in Greek does not mean 'meek and mild'. Aristotle used the word for the 'golden mean'. It was the point between extreme anger and extreme angerlessness. A meek person in the Greek sense of the term was controlled and balanced, getting angry at all the right things at the right time. Injustice in the world, not personal insults, mattered to this person."

Give some thought to the things which cause you to be angry. Jesus was angry at the right things and at the right time. Was this true of you last week?

2. Read Galatians 5:16-23 then consider the following quote:

"A person must bid farewell to all the works of darkness. Otherwise he proves that he is not as yet walking in the light (1 Corinthians 11; Ephesians 4:20 and 5:7-11). He must realize that even though he is in the world and has a mission to fulfill, he is not of the world, but is a sojourner or pilgrim on the earth."

—*New Testament Commentary*, p.222, Hendrickson

What is a sojourner? Why are believers called sojourners?

3. Read about meekness in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1-10. The reward for meekness is to "inherit the earth." This theme is also found in the following scriptures:

Psalm 37:11; Matthew 6:10; Luke 19:17-19  
Revelations 5:10; Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-8

Who would you say is a meek person? Ask them to tell you about their spiritual journey.



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## SUMMER FRUIT—MEEKNESS

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### Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Meekness** .... • *praotes* (Greek), gentleness, humility

- not weakness, but power under control
- gentleness toward one another and toward all men
- the right use of power and authority
- considerate and courteous

Meekness is the very opposite of vehemence, violence, and outbursts of anger.

### 1. Meekness is the spirit in which to LEARN.

**Matthew 11:28-30**—Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.<sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.<sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

**James 1:21-25**—Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.<sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;<sup>24</sup> for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.<sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

“Meekness is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealing with us as good and therefore without disputing or resisting.”

—*Synonyms of the New Testament*, R.C. Trench

## 2. Meekness is the spirit in which DISCIPLINE must be applied and FAULTS corrected.

**Galatians 6:1-2**—Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.<sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

“The meek Christian does not throw his weight around or assert himself. Just as wisdom is the right use of knowledge, so meekness is the right use of power and authority.”

—*Galatians*, p.136, Warren Wiersbe

## 3. Meekness is the spirit in which OPPOSITION is confronted.

**2 Timothy 2:23-26**—But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.<sup>24</sup> And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,<sup>25</sup> in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,<sup>26</sup> and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

“Those who are meek are truly humble and gentle and have a proper appreciation of their place in God's family.”

“The ancients used this word of an animal that has been tamed and brought under control. So, the word speaks of a person brought under the control of Christ.”

—*Galatians*, William Barclay

## 4. Meekness is the spirit through which we DEFEND the FAITH.

**1 Peter 3:13-17**—And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”<sup>15</sup> 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;<sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.<sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.