

## Gentleness

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5 (ESV)).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that if we are a part of His Kingdom, we will be meek or gentle. One of the big problems is, we are not always sure what it means to be gentle. We might confuse gentleness with timidity or weakness. Weakness certainly isn't what Jesus spoke about. It's a matter of our heart.

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When we truly appreciate what Christ has done for us — when we understand that we do not, and never will, have the ability to stand before the throne of God unspotted (except through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ) — then we can start to develop a heart of gentleness. It's when our heart can take all of our emotions and use them appropriately. It's when our heart refuses to allow us to fly off the handle in rage because someone has offended us or disappointed us. It's when

We can disagree and still be friends

we don't feel as though we have to tell somebody off because we have had a disagreement with them. Just because we do not hold the same views as someone else does not mean that we should necessarily dislike them, or shun them. We can

disagree and still be friends.

If we can develop this spirit of gentleness or meekness, we will be able to have a heart that blesses those around us. In a world filled with hard-headed and hard-hearted people, may God help us as His people to show the world a spirit of gentleness.

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3

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<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

<sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

<sup>10</sup>In this is love not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.

<sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

<sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

<sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

<sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us.

<sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

<sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother (1 John 4:7-21 (ESV)).

## Weekly Schedule

(\*See the panels on the right for details)

### Sunday

10.00 am — Breaking of Bread  
11.15 am — Good News Service\*  
6.30 pm — Evening Service\*

### Monday

2.30 pm — Ladies Meeting\*  
  
8.00 pm — Bible Study

### Tuesday

10.00 am — Carpet Bowls  
6.00 pm — Carpet Bowls

### Wednesday

10.00 am — Food Bank

### Thursday

10.00 am — Coffee and Chat\*  
(First Thursday of the month only)  
6.00 pm — Pathfinders  
7.30 pm — Midweek Meeting

### Friday

10.00 am — Food Bank  
6.00 pm — Pathos

### First Saturday of the month only

8.30 am — Prayer Meeting

## Speakers

### Good News Service Sunday Morning — 11.15 am

3 February — Family Service  
10 February — Colin Vine — Mark 15:1-20  
17 February — Koen Hellendoorn — Mark 15:21-32  
24 February — Barry Laidler — Mark 15: 33-47

### Ladies Meeting Monday — 2.30 pm

4 February — Eric Young  
11 February — Paul Caygell  
18 February — Ray Chester  
25 February — Graham Edwards

### Evening Service Sunday — 6.30 pm

3 February — Paul Clayton — Stockton  
10 February — Junction 42 — Stockton  
17 February — Alan Coyle — Stockton  
24 February — Alan Park — Motherwell

### Coffee & Chat Thursday 7 February — 10.00 am

Colin Vine  
Highgate to Hebron (It's further than that!)

### Just for Fun

(Answers, if you need them, next month)

1. Which book of the Old Testament is the shortest?
2. Who were the sons of Noah?
3. Who said, "... and who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

#### Answers from December:

1. According to Jesus you do not put new wines into old wineskins, because the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed (Matthew 9:17)
2. Hananiah became Shadrach, Mishael was renamed Meshach, and Azariah was called Abednego (Daniel 1:7).
3. The plague immediately before the death of the firstborn was the ninth plague: darkness (Exodus 10:21)

