

Conduct in the Church
Growing in Godliness
Week #6 - Gracious Gentleness
1 Timothy 3:3

There are several words that we will focus on tonight, but there is one main quality that summarizes all of them. The main character quality is “_____”.

What is your first thought or reaction to the word, “Gentle”?

What it is:

- Gentle – “ἐπιεικής”
 - It means, _____, _____, _____.
 - Historically, it has been used of rulers and leaders who have the ability to exercise punishment.
 - It is a balanced approach of holding up to truth but doing it in a moderate manner.
 - Septuagint uses this word in Psalm 86:5 – God is “_____”.
 - What Paul is meaning here with this word is conduct that is moderate or balanced.
 - It is not moderate in morals, but moderate in our _____.

What it is not:

- There are three qualities: “not _____”, “not _____”, and “not _____”
- “Not given to wine” – “not addicted to wine or a drunkard”.
- “Not violent” – to not be a bully or a combative person.
- “Not quarrelsome” – is also only used twice in the Bible.
 - “_____” is the same word as “not quarrelsome”. It is used right alongside the word “gentle” both times.
 - It can be used to describe a person who is _____ or with whom no one fights.
- Read Philippians 4:1-5
 - Could the “gentleness” in verse 5 be relating to the disagreement in verses 1 and 2? Could this example and exhortation in Philippians instruct us to go about disagreements? If so, how?

What it looks like:

- _____ and _____
 - Proverbs 15:1 “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Are we in the habit of harsh words or soft answers? How can we as a church encourage one another in these things?

Discussion questions:

- Can one “contend for the faith” while still being gentle? What does that look like? Is gentleness needed all the time?
- When interacting with the believers, what does this look like when addressing sin, during times of conflict, or even speaking truth?