

The Fruit of the Spirit

(Lesson 6)

Introduction:

1. "The fruit of the Spirit" consists of 9 special characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. The fifth of these characteristics is "gentleness" [also translated "kindness"]: having a mild disposition that is sympathetic and forbearing toward others.

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO BE GENTLE AND KIND
 - A. (1 Corinthians 13:4) Christian love [charity] *"is kind."*
 - B. (Ephesians 4:32) Christians are to be *"kind one to another."*
 - C. (Colossians 3:12) Christians are to put on *"kindness."*
 - D. (Titus 3:2) Christians are to be *"gentle."*
- II. THE BIBLE ALSO TEACHES CHRISTIANS HOW TO BE GENTLE AND KIND
 - A. (Ephesians 4:29-32) Being kind:
 1. is associated with being tenderhearted and forgiving
 2. is contrasted with corrupt communication, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, and malice.
 - B. (Colossians 3:8-13) Kindness:
 1. is associated with mercy, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, and forgiveness
 2. is contrasted with anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, and lying.
 - C. (Titus 3:1-2) Being gentle:
 1. is associated with meekness
 2. is contrasted with speaking evil of others and brawling.
 - D. Gentleness and kindness can be demonstrated without words; however, they are often mentioned in connection with our words (ex. -- Proverbs 31:26).
 - E. Since this is the case, we must pay close attention to passages that relate to our speech.
 1. Gentleness and kindness will be reflected by the speech mentioned in Colossians 4:6.
 2. A lengthy discussion of the tongue is given in James 3:2-18.
 - a. (vs.2) A perfect person bridles his tongue and does not use offensive speech.
 - b. (vs.3-8) Even though it is very small, the tongue is very powerful.
 - 1) It may be used for good purposes if it is controlled.
 - 2) It may be used for evil purposes if it is not controlled.
 - c. (vs.9-12) Blessing God and cursing men with the tongue is inconsistent.
 - d. (vs.13-18) Earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom are contrasted [gentleness is associated with heavenly wisdom].