

The Fruit of the Spirit

(Lesson 9)

Introduction:

1. "The fruit of the Spirit" consists of 9 characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. "Meekness" is the eighth of these special characteristics.

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO BE MEEK
 - A. Ephesians 4:1-3
 - B. Colossians 3:12-13
 - C. Titus 3:1-2
- II. MEEKNESS DEFINED
 - A. Meekness: a gentle, mild, and patient spirit that Christians are to manifest at all times toward all people.
 1. Meekness has been described as "strength under control."
 2. Meekness does not imply "weakness."
 3. A meek person does not assert himself or his selfish interests.
 - B. Much can be learned about meekness by examining meek Bible characters.
 1. Moses was meek (Numbers 12:3).
 - a. Later, a lack of meekness caused Moses to sin (Numbers 20:1-12).
 - b. Moses shows us that meekness must be demonstrated at all times, especially during stressful situations.
 2. Jesus was meek (Matthew 11:29; 21:4-5).
 - a. Later, Jesus cleansed the temple (Matthew 21:12-13).
 - b. Jesus shows us that meekness does not mean that:
 - 1) error may be condoned
 - 2) truth may be compromised.
 - III. THE BIBLE MENTIONS A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS WHEN CHRISTIANS ARE TO DEMONSTRATE MEEKNESS
 - A. In general, a Christian is to demonstrate meekness in his entire manner of life (James 3:13; 1 Peter 3:3-4).
 - B. More specifically, Christians are to demonstrate meekness when:
 1. receiving God's word (James 1:21)
 2. answering questions (1 Peter 3:15)
 3. instructing those who oppose themselves (2 Timothy 2:23-26)
 4. restoring someone overtaken in a fault (Galatians 6:1).
 - IV. MANY SPECIAL BLESSINGS ARE PROMISED TO THE MEEK
 - A. Psalm 22:26
 - B. Psalm 25:9
 - C. Psalm 37:11
 - D. Psalm 147:6
 - E. Psalm 149:4
 - F. Matthew 5:5