

# The Fruit of the Spirit

## Overview:

- A) Christian Community: Love, Joy, Peace
- B) Christian Conversation: Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness
- C) Christi Character: Fidelity, Meekness, Temperance

## B) Christian Conversation: Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness

KJV: longsuffering, gentleness, goodness 2X

NKJV: longsuffering, kindness, goodness 4X

NLT: patience, kindness, goodness 8X

NIV: forbearance, kindness, goodness

## Definitions:

- longsuffering - having or showing patience in spite of troubles, especially those caused by other people
- patience - the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset
- gentleness - the quality of being kind, tender, or mild-mannered
- kindness - the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate
- goodness - the quality of being morally good or virtuous

## In the Bible used in translation:

- forbearance and longsuffering used in Roman 2:4. cp. 3:25 NKJV "in His *forbearance* God had passed over the sins that were previously committed" It is patience with people not circumstances.
- gentleness in Romans 2:4 KJV "goodness," which supports the idea that they have a relationship. Written 3X "kindness" in Romans 11:22 NIV "Consider therefore the *kindness* and sternness [severity is the opposite]of God: sternness to those who fell, but *kindness* to you, provided that you continue in his *kindness*. Otherwise, you also will be cut off." Paul here is underscoring the the work of a divine grace and mercy that cannot be mocked or abused.
- **Christian Conversation:** Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness. the tripod—threefold—ministry spoke of in John 16:8 of the Spirit and His work through us in 1 Thessalonians 5:14.
  - *Paraklete* means 3 ideas in 1. It combines the ideas of exhorting and comforting and encouraging [Romans 12:8]: comfort [John 14:16-18; Romans 8:15], guidance [John 14:26; Romans 8:14], and defense or plead one's cause for divine aid or action, grace [1 John 2:1; Romans 8:26, 31].
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:14
    - *warn* [admonish, get it through to ] them that are unruly, [guidance, exhortation]
    - *comfort* [pity, console] the feebleminded [discouraged, lost spirit], [comport]
    - *support* [help, encouragement] the weak [wearied, worn out, low on resources], [defense, come to their aid]
    - be patient toward all *men*.
  - Longsuffering toward those we warn, Gentleness toward those we console , and Goodness toward those we aid or support.

## C) Christian Character: Fidelity- Meekness - Temperance

## Definitions:

- Fidelity - faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support
- Meekness - submissiveness
- Temperance - abstinence from alcoholic drink

Their meaning is elevated in Scripture as Richard Trench noted, "...words often contain a witness for great moral truths—men are continually uttering deeper things than they know."

### Triplets of Character:

- Fidelity - [Will] Christlikeness, a way of life built on trust in the Lord
- Meekness - [Emotion] Christlikeness, -is a passion that drives our actions
- Temperance - [Thought] Christlikeness, the guiding principle.

### A Closer Look:

- Fidelity - "And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and *believed* [in] the LORD, and his servant Moses."
  - Genesis 15:6 "And he [Abraham] believed *in* the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."
  - 2 Chronicles 20:20 "Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established"
- Meekness - lies between
  - Humility [our absolute dependance of God] and
  - Sweet reasonableness - "It expresses exactly that moderation which recognizes the impossibility cleaving to all formal law, of anticipating and providing for all cases that will emerge, and present themselves to it for decision; which, with this, recognizes the danger that ever waits upon the assertion of *legal* rights, lest they should be pushed into *moral* wrongs."
    - "No Latin word exactly and adequately renders it" *Clemency* is close.
    - Grotius "in quo lex propter universalitatem deficit" a deficit in the proper and universal application of law. Some truth falls between the cracks!
    - Opposite: akribos-dikaisos, [to the letter of the law] the man who stands up for the last tittle of his legal rights.
    - 2 Corinthians 10:1 I myself beseech you by the meekness and *gentleness* [sweet reasonableness] of Christ
    - Where humility overlaps with sweet reasonableness we can define this as meekness.
    - Luke 22:32 "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."
    - Philippians 4:5 "Let your *moderation* [sweet reasonableness] be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."
  - With "sweet reasonableness" there is implied the action of a superior to a servant or someone of lesser authority or status. Whereas with "meekness" they are total equals.
    - 1 Peter 3:4 "But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek [not wild or intemperate] and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price"
    - "mansuetus qui non turbat" - Trench. 1 Timothy 6:11 meekness - "mildness of disposition"
- Temperance - Led by the Spirit, Under His guidance. Temperance is only mentioned in these 3 verses in the New Testament:
  - the Fruit of the Spirit;
  - in Peter's list of virtues [2 Peter 1:6]; and, of all places,
  - by Paul conversing with Felix, a Government official, and his wife, Drusilla in Acts 24:25. Luke wrote that Paul spoke of judgment, temperance, and righteousness which appears too similar to the Spirit's teaching in John 16:8 to call it coincidental.