



Pastor Scott Archer 11.09.2014*
Central Congregational Church
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The Power of the Gentle Touch

Series: *The Fruit of the Spirit – Living a Life that Pleases God*
Galatians 5:22

Galatians 5:16–18 (NIV) — 16 So I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 **For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.** They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV) — 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 **gentleness** and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Gentleness: Mild in temperament or behavior. Moderate in action. Not harsh or severe.

Central Thought: The power and presence of the Spirit of Jesus enables me to carry out the kingdom purposes of Jesus in the gentleness of Jesus.

❖ Jesus is the ultimate gentleman

Matthew 21:4–5 (NIV) — 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: 5 “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘**See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**’”

Matthew 11:29–30 (NIV) — 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, **for I am gentle and humble in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

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❖ Gentleness is a test of true wisdom and a sign of spiritual maturity

James 3:17 (ESV) — 17 **But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.**

Titus 3:1–2 (NIV) — 1 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, **and always to be gentle toward everyone.** (See also Proverbs 15:1)

❖ Gentleness is a sign of true power

John 13:3–5 (NIV) — 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Matthew 5:5 (NIV) — 5 Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth.

2 Timothy 2:24–25 (ESV) — 24 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 **correcting his opponents with gentleness...**

❖ Our witness should be marked by a gentle touch

1 Peter 3:15–16 (NIV) — 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. **But do this with gentleness and respect**, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

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