

Fruit-Filled Living (Pt.10)

“Mango Meekness”

(Galatians 5:23)

“The fruit of the Spirit is ...Meekness” (KJV)

Introduction: The mango is the most popular fruit in the world! But it's not the most popular fruit in the world because of what it can do, but because of what it is. In that sense, mango fruit is a lot like the spiritual fruit of meekness. Because the Christian life is not a matter of what we do, it is a matter of what we are. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, and the fruit of the Spirit...meekness. But we need to clear up...

I. The confusion of meekness:

A. The world's definition – The dictionary defines meekness as “a deficiency of spirit.”

B. The Word's definition – basically refers to something that is mild or gentle. (*It means – to be gentle hearted or mild.*) (Mt. 5:5)

Meekness is simply surrendering your will to God's will. *We're going to find in this study that the mark of a mighty man or woman of God is meekness.*

1. In the Gk. it is used to speak of a medicine that calmed and soothed the spirit.
2. In the N.T. it is used at least 12 times and promoted as a virtue.
 - a. In our text it is a fruit of the Spirit.
 - b. In 1 Tim. 6:11 Paul tells Timothy it is the charter trait of a real Christian man. *But you, O man of God..., pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness...*”
 - c. We know Paul is not telling Timothy to be a coward because the very next verse he tells him, *Fight the good fight of faith...*
 - d. James 3:13 meekness is the key to wisdom –

C. The working definition – “*strength under control*”

1. It is the by- product of self- emptying or brokenness before God. *It is the difference between a lion in the wild and a tame lion.*
2. The Holy Spirit desires to develop in us the character of Jesus Christ, the character of meekness. (Mt. 11:29) KJV)

II. The call to meekness: Notice...

A. The movement of meekness – Meekness moves in 2 directions...

1. Toward God – it means to be completely trusting and submissive to God. The meek person completely trusts everything in the hands of God.
2. Toward people – The meek person has mildness about them as they deal with people. (*Something very much needed today.*) (Matt 5:5) There are some special blessings for the meek.
 - a. Greater joy - (Isa 29:19)

b. Guidance in Judgment - (Ps 25:9) *However there is...*

B. The Myth of meekness – *The word that rhymes with meekness is weakness, people get the idea they mean the same thing.*

1. Meekness does not back away from sin or cease to condemn evil. (Eph 4:26), *“Be angry, and do not sin”*
 - a. Strength out of control looks like this - (Prov 25:28)
 - b. Strength under control looks like this - (Prov 16:32)

C. The model of Meekness –

1. Jesus – (Matt 11:29)

- a. Zech. Prophesied about the meekness of Jesus (Zach. 9:9; Cf. Mt.21:5)
- b. Paul talked about the meekness of Christ in (2 Cor.10:1)
- c. But when God was dishonored – that same meek spirited Jesus walked into the temple... (He never defended Himself – but His Fathers house!) (Jn.2:13-17; Mt. 21:12-13)

2. This is the same meek Jesus who Peter said, (1 Pet 2:21-23)

3. Someone says, well Jesus couldn't defend Himself... (Matt 26:53) *Jesus was meek, His strength was under control so as not to react when it came to Himself. Meekness only roars when God is the issue.*

III. The conduct of meekness:

A. We should conduct ourselves in meekness in ministry –

Stuart Briscoe said, “Meekness is the strength of backing off from a fight you could win, and a point you could nail down, for the sake of the damage that will be done and the greater issue at stake.”

B. We should conduct ourselves with meekness in our marriage – (1 Pe, 3:1-3)

Because, meekness is not weakness, but rather a source of great strength.

C. Everything about our manner as Christians should be conducted in meekness – (Eph 4:2)

D. How does one know if they're meek? Answer these six questions.

1. Do you experience self-control?
2. Are you angered only when God is dishonored?
3. Do you always respond to the word of God humbly, no matter what it says? (Js 1:21)
4. Do you always make peace? - (Eph 4:3; Gal. 6:1) *Meek people are peace makers, not troublemakers!*
5. Do you receive criticism, whether it's right or wrong, without retaliation? (2 Tim 2:24-25)
6. Do you have the right attitude toward the unsaved? (1 Pet 3:15)
 - a. We are commanded to pursue meekness – (1 Tim.6:11)
 - b. We are told to wear meekness like a garment – (Col. 3:12)

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