

## Fruit of the Spirit Gentleness

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1. Gentleness is the inclination to be sensitive in dealing with others
  - a. It is a virtue born of power, since it assumes a powerful position. The word translated “gentleness” is sometimes alternatively translated “stooping down.”
  - b. There is a slight, but important, distinction between gentleness and meekness. Gentleness is an active trait, describing how we treat others; meekness is a passive trait, describing how we respond to the mistreatment of others.
2. God’s treatment of His people, and Jesus’ display of God’s treatment, symbolizes such gentleness
  - a. E.g. in the midst of a description of God’s power in Isaiah 40:10-26, verse 11 says “He tends his flock like a Shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those who have young.”
  - b. Likewise, consider the gentleness shown by Jesus and the salvation He brings (Matthew 11:28,29). The word gentle sometimes is translated as RESTFULL.
3. In both images, gentleness has a distinctly maternal element to it. That is unfortunate if masculine characteristics are seen as being at odds with it.
4. What has God done in making it easier for you to deal with Him? What can you do in order to make it easier for others to deal with you?