

Sermon Notes – October 8, 2017

The Manliness of Meekness—and Meekness Rocks for Females as Well!

Matthew 5:5

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Our Mission: Helping people take the next step in one's relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Vision Statement:

***Connect:** Connect through authentic community with other Christ-followers; **Grow:** Grow in one's personal relationship with Jesus;*

***Go:** Go and serve others sharing love and the gospel.*

1. Biblical meekness comes through the self-realization that everyone, certainly ourselves included, are "sinful messes" in need of God's forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration (Matthew 5:5; 2 Samuel 16:7-10, 19:18-23; 1 John 1:9-10). We rightly learn Biblical meekness towards others, when we realize just how much God has forgiven us!
2. Biblical meekness not only acknowledges our own (personal) daily need for God's forgiveness, but it also rightly realizes that we too are to offer daily forgiveness to others (Matthew 5:5; 2 Samuel 16:7-10, 19:18-23). Indeed, Biblical meekness rightly acknowledges that at one level, God requires Christ-followers to forgive others in order to receive further, daily, forgiveness from Him (Matthew 6:12, 14-5).
3. Biblical meekness includes forgiving others—even those whom we might "hate" to forgive (Matthew 5:5, 6:12, 14-5; Colossians 3:13; Luke 17:3-4; Ephesians 4:31-32; Mark 11:25).
4. Biblical meekness is an act of God within us—we need to ask God (repeatedly) to help us forgive the one(s) who most repulse us, and who are hardest to forgive (Matthew 5:5; we need God's peace within us to be meek and to forgive—Philippians 4:7; Philippians 4:13). With the most difficult people to forgive, we often need to repeatedly forgive, and repeatedly claim Philippians 4:13, over a period of time. Forgiveness is not always a "one-time" event as God's Spirit repeatedly works within us to let go of the hurt, pain, anger, resentment, hatred, and hopes for revenge that often well within us. This is especially true when one has been severely wronged.
5. While it is often right to hold someone accountable for their crimes, and to hand someone over to law enforcement for crimes committed, we must simultaneously learn to forgive that person within our hearts. We need to be clear on this issue: Biblical meekness, including forgiveness, does not always mean "letting a person go" from the law, from legal repercussions, or from judicial processes (Romans 13:1-7).