

## *REAL TALK FROM THE WORD*

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### The Beatitudes

“...Blessed are the Meek...”

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MEEK?**

The Greek term for *meekness* has its roots in the domestication of animals. Today we talk about a horse that has been “broken,” meaning that the animal has learned to accept control by its master and is properly behaved. The meek are those of gentle behavior, loving and submissive.

We sometimes confuse the two, but meek does NOT equal weak! The difference between a weak person and a meek person is this: a weak person can't do anything; a meek person can do something but chooses not to.

A good, working definition of biblical meekness is ***strength under control***. The meek are inwardly strong enough to be outwardly self-controlled. It means being strong in your gentleness.

It means having a *trusting and submissive* attitude towards God – not a passive submission that shrugs its shoulders and says, “Oh well, I can't do anything about it anyway,” but rather an active submission, a choosing to accept **all** of God's ways as good without murmuring or disputing.

Meekness looks beyond circumstances - no matter how upsetting and hurtful – and bows the knee to the sovereign God.

Meekness is being able to resist our 'natural' desire to rebel, to retaliate, to have our own way, to push ourselves forward (by stepping on/over others), etc. It means submitting to the Lord in obedience to **His** will.

Meekness causes a person to consider (think about) his actions BEFORE he acts. Quite often, what we say and what we do will be done in a completely different way if we stop acting on impulse (according to our emotions/in the heat of the moment).

Some Bible passages on meekness:

Ephesians 4:1, 2... Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,<sup>2</sup> *with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love...*

Colossians 3:12, 13... So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, *humility, gentleness and patience*; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

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