



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 03.12.2023

“Meekness”

Preacher

Ps. Nathan Bean

Scripture

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:12-15

Thought

Colossians paints the picture of an outfit - one that we as Christians should all wear. It lists qualities that are essential and important to the Christian faith - not just for our personal journey, but for our public life. Every one of us should be clothed with compassion, with kindness, with humility.

Yet being more like Jesus is not a matter of just trying harder. Yes, it’s OK to put in effort, but if we purely try to get there by our own means, we risk falling into the trap of mere moralism.

We must start by realising that the only reason we can change is because His life has transformed our life. We have died to our old lives and are now



raised to life in Him. We're not good people trying to be better, we're dead people coming alive, only because He first made a way.

In response to this, we can then choose to clothe ourselves in the qualities of His likeness. The more we choose them, the more they become part of our nature. Whatever our current default is, the call is to take another step towards these qualities.

Today, we explore the quality of meekness and gentleness. Meekness by definition is strength under control. It's when you have the power, but you choose to not use your power. It's not weakness or cowardice, and it's not reckless power, it's a tension, a balance.

We may have the right to say something, the perfect comeback, yet we choose not to do it. It's the withholding of something that is within our ability for the sake of another. It's not posting that perfect argument, it's not retorting that comeback comment. It's releasing to God what belongs to God.

This takes intentionality. To not fly into battle when we see evil succeed, rather we are called to delight in the Lord. The challenge is to not look at others in the world and compare ourselves to them, but to look at Christ. It's the intentional unhitching of our wagon from the dark horses of outrage and comparison, and rather connecting to the white horse of Christ, following Him, relying on Him and Him alone.

We learn the secret of being content, of turning our tongue from criticism and comparison, to gratitude and grace. We surrender our right for vindication and we lay it down, trusting in the sovereign righteousness of Christ, shedding the weight of our own need to see judgement.

For meekness is a gentle cool breeze. It's a shimmering reflection of a glimpse of God's goodness and grace which is poured out freely upon us despite our failings, despite our own flaws.

And so, we lay down arms. We choose to be the gentle breeze in each situation, to moderate our God-given skills to use them for lifting others up and pointing them to the endless thirst-quenching water that is Christ.



Discussion Points

1. If I truly trusted Christ to be perfect in all His judgements, what would that mean in the way I respond to personal injustice?
2. Do I feel the need for vindication in an area of my life and is this something I need to surrender to Christ afresh today?
3. Is there one thing God is challenging me on this week? (You may wish to take a moment to pray this one though)

Personal application + Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Teach me to be meek. Show me your nature and let me be truly in awe of your wonder, Lord. I release to You my hurts, my failures, my desire to be seen, for I know that You see me and You know me. This is all I've ever wanted, and it's all I ever need. Let this truth transform me today, and may I carry the gentle breeze of your spirit into my world.

Amen.