

Character Trait for March is Gentleness

Philippians 1:9-10, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ"

CHARACTER: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Gentleness: Showing concern and personal consideration for others. It can also be defined as the quality of being kind, tender, or mild-mannered

Derivation: The Latin origin of the word gentle is *gentilis*, a term that means "of the same family".

Weekly Verse: Philippians 4:5a "Let your gentleness be evident to all."

Bible Story: Luke 18:15-17 tells the story of Jesus blessing the children, and his description of the personality traits it takes to enter his kingdom.

Quote: "Nothing is as strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."

Application:

I had my own personal experience with gentleness and being a Christian when I moved to California in 1989 to start my teaching career. I became a part of a church and truly started to claim my faith as my own and to follow Jesus. One thing that I began to notice almost immediately was that all of the men I truly respected, and knew to love the Lord, would be men that I described as gentle. I remember thinking that was weird—to use the word gentleness to describe men. In the world's eyes, this is not a masculine trait, but that is because the world does not truly understand gentleness or the true definition of being men. It is a trait that I want others to use to describe me. (Lance)

Discussion Questions:

Would you say the culture that we live in values gentleness? Why or why not?

Can you name someone who you could describe as gentle? How do you feel about them?

Can you be successful and gentle at the same time?