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.

Derivation: **Gentleness**- the quality of being kind, tender, or mild-mannered. The Latin origin of the word gentle is *gentilis*, a term that means "of the same family".

Weekly Verse: Matthew 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Bible Story: 2 Timothy 2:22-26 discusses how we should treat others, even those who disagree with us.

Quote: "True gentleness can only be expected from the strong."

Application: It has been pointed out that courage is not in Paul's list of the fruits of the Spirit. But, we should recognize that it takes courage to be gentle in the midst of all the evil surrounding us in this world. It took courage for Paul to stand against the party spirit that had developed in Corinth and that had become almost vicious.

Gentleness is never a false modesty, a self-depreciation, or a spineless refusal to stand for anything. Gentleness is never a cowardly retreat from reality, which substitutes a passive selfishness for real gentleness and avoids trouble in ways that allow even greater trouble to develop. Neither is it a false humility that refuses to recognize God has given us talents and abilities or that refuses to use them for His glory.

In our daily lives we cannot help coming into situations that bring conflict with people. It is easy for us to naturally react with violence or anger, especially if we feel insecure in our position. But when we accept the reality of who we are in Christ and trust the Holy Spirit to help us, we can be gentle, whatever conflicts may arise.

Discussion Questions:

What trait would you say is the opposite of gentleness?

How do you think the term "gentleman" was derived from gentle?

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