

Sunday, April 7, 2024—Galatians 5:23 The Fruit of the Spirit, Part 9 (Meekness)

### Galatians 5:23

- **Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**
- **Meekness**—the word translated “meekness” occurs 9 times in 9 verses in the New Testament. All of them occur in Paul’s epistles where the word is rendered “meekness” every time by the King James translators.
- Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* defines “meekness” as follows:

“Softness of temper; mildness; gentleness; forbearance under injuries and provocations.

In an evangelical sense, humility; resignation; submission to the divine will, without murmuring or peevishness; opposed to pride, arrogance and refractoriness. Galatians 5:23.

I beseech you by the meekness of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:1.

Meekness is a grace which Jesus alone inculcated, and which no ancient philosopher seems to have understood or recommended.”

- Numbers 12:3—is the first occurrence of the word “meek” in the Bible. It appears in a parenthetical statement about the character and demeanor of Moses.
  - Exodus 32:19
  - Numbers 20:1-13
- Matthew 11:28-30—thrice the Lord Jesus Christ is described as “meek” during his earthly ministry.
  - Matthew 21:5
  - II Corinthians 10:1
- Psalm 45:4—is the only verse I could find that seems to apply the quality of “meekness” to God the Father. It appears to be a quality that the scriptures apply most frequently to men.
  - Psalm 22:26; 25:9; 37:11; 76:9; 147:6; 149:4
  - Isaiah 11:4
  - Isaiah 29:19
  - Matthew 5:5
- Meekness is a Pauline quality that members off the body of Christ are to be known and characterized by.

- I Corinthians 4:21
  - II Corinthians 10:1—Paul uses the phrase “the spirit of meekness” twice in his epistles.
  - Galatians 6:1
  - Ephesians 4:2
  - Colossians 3:12
  - I Timothy 6:11
  - II Timothy 2:25
  - Titus 3:2
- Galatians 5:23—“meekness” is not weakness rather it a practical expression of grace and longsuffering that is soft in temper and forbears injuries and provocations.