

Wisdom From Above—Gentle

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 15, 2018.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many sections in the Bible that describe characteristics that disciples seek to inculcate into their lives. One such section is found in James 3:17.

James 3:17—"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

Today, we will discuss the subject of being gentle.

Greek word in James 3:17

At this time, let's focus upon the Greek word in James 3:17 translated as "gentle."

■ *Epieikes* (No. 1933 in *Strong's Concordance*) is the Greek adjective translated as "peaceable" in James 3:17. It is used in four other verses.

Philippians 4:5—"Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand."

1 Timothy 3:3—"Qualities of a leader include] not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous."

Titus 3:2—"Qualities of a leader include] to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men."

1 Peter 2:18—"Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh."

Variation of Greek word

Here are variations of the Greek word *epieikes* in the New Testament.

■ *Epieikeia* (No. 1932 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a noun used two times. Those verses are Acts 24:4 and 2 Corinthians 10:1.

Acts 24:4—“Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy [1932], a few words from us.”

2 Corinthians 10:1-5—“Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. I hope it won’t be necessary, but when I come I may have to be very bold with those who think we act from purely human motives. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Words with similar meanings

Bible students are generally aware that Bible translations interchange English words for the Greek words that have similar meanings. A good case in point is Galatians 5:22-23.

Notice the list of nine qualities in two similar translations—the King James Version and the New King James Version. (When there is a different English word used, the King James Version is mentioned first.)

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Long-suffering
- Gentleness and kindness

The Greek word is *chrestotes* (No. 5544 in *Strong’s Concordance*), which is a noun used 10 times in the New Testament—generally defined as “kindness” or “goodness.”

- Goodness
- Faith and faithfulness
- Meekness and gentleness

The Greek word is *praotes* (No. 4236 in *Strong’s Concordance*), which is a noun that is used only this place in the New Testament. The word is generally defined as “gentleness,” “humility,” “courtesy” or “consideration.”

- Temperance and self-control