

Parents Who Reflect | Peaceful Parenting, Part 3

I. Paul's Second Peace Prerequisite

- Philippians 4:5 *“Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.”*
- The other places in the New Testament where the Greek word here translated “gentle” appear.
 - I Timothy 3:2-3 says, *“an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not a drunkard, not violent but **gentle**, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.”*
 - Titus 3:1-2 instructs us to, *“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **2** to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be **gentle**, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.”*
 - James 3:17 teaches us that, *“the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle**, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”*
 - I Peter 2:18 says, *“Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and **gentle** but also to the unjust.”*

II. The Character of a Gentle Parent

- Parents who're gentle are going to be the following things to their family:
 - above reproach,
 - faithful to their spouses
 - sober-minded,
 - self-controlled,
 - respectable,
 - hospitable,
 - a good teacher,
 - submissive,
 - obedient,
 - ready for every good work
 - positive,
 - courteous,
 - wise,
 - pure,
 - peaceable,
 - reasonable,
 - merciful,
 - righteous,
 - impartial,
 - and sincere
- And gentle parents will *not* be
 - drunkards,
 - violent,
 - quarrelsome,
 - or lovers of money

- The Basis for character dwells in our relationship with God. Matthew 22:37-40, “[Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
 - *Jesus Himself is spiritually near.* I Corinthians 6:19-20 tells us, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”
 - *Jesus’ return is at hand.* Mark 13:32-37, “But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, **‘Be on the alert!’** [emphasis mine]”
- The Gentle Parent remains moderate even when family members abuse them. Matthew 5:43-48, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

III. God Promises We Can Be Gentle Parents

- We “can do all things through Christ which strengthens us.” Philippians 4:13
- God “has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness.” II Peter 1:3

IV. Other Passages to Consider as You Learn to Be Gentle to Your Family

- Philippians 2:3
- Romans 12:10