

Character Trait for March 19-23 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: I Timothy 6:11 "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."

Bible Story: Isaiah 53 compares the Messiah to a gentle sheep who gives his life for others.

Quote: "In a gentle way, you can shake the world."

Application: In Matthew 5, Jesus begins what is called "The Sermon on the Mount".

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek (gentle), for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Discussion Questions:

How does this description of how we should live make you feel?

Is it possible to live this way without being a "doormat", taken advantage of by other people?