

Sermon Discussion Guide 4.23.23
Ephesians 4:1-2: This Is Who We Are: Gentle
Pastor Carmen Schrock-Hurst

Preparation: Reflect on people in your life that you have experienced as gentle. What impact did they have? How did their responses shape people and events around them?

Read and Compare: Look at the Scriptures below. If you have time you might like to look up the context of some of these passages. What do you notice about how gentleness is used? What situations in our life call for gentleness?

Colossians 3:12 -Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, **gentleness**, and patience.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **gentleness**, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

1 Peter 3: 15 b - Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and respect.

Titus 3:1-2 - Remind the people to be ... peaceable and considerate, and always to be **gentle** toward everyone.

1 Thessalonians 2:7 English Standard Version – But we were **gentle** among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

Discuss: Do you agree with George Bethune that perhaps no grace is less prayed for or less cultivated than gentleness? If so, why do you think this is true? How might we change this?

Reflect: What is one situation in your current life where you could respond more gently? If you feel comfortable take time to share these as a group.

Closing prayer: Lord, teach us to respond to the needs around us with gentle hearts. Amen.