



# “Led by the Spirit”: Love, Kindness, Gentleness

## I. Love (v.22):

- **Very first characteristic listed; sets the context of expression for the rest of the characteristics listed**

**“Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son...Love had its perfect expression among men in the Lord Jesus Christ...Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian” -From *Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine*;  
See I John 3:18**



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Love (v.22) - "Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments...Self-will, that is, self-pleasing, is the negation of love to God..." -*From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine*



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Love (v.22) – “Christian love, whether exercised toward the brethren, or toward men generally, is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered.” - *From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine*



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Love (v.22) - "Love seeks the welfare of all and works no ill to any (Rom. 13:10); love seeks opportunity to do good to *'all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith,'* Gal. 6:10. See further 1 Corinthians 13..." - *From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine*



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### II. Kindness [“Gentleness” - KJV] (v.22):

- See I Cor. 13:4 (verb form)

**It signifies "not merely goodness as a quality, rather it is goodness in action, goodness expressing itself in deeds; yet not goodness expressing itself in indignation against sin, for it is contrasted with severity in Rom. 11:22, but [rather expressing itself] in grace and tenderness and compassion.” - *From Notes on Galatians, by Hogg and Vine***



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**III. Gentleness [Meekness - KJV] (v.23) –**  
**“an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting” – Vine’s**



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**Gentleness (v.23) – “it is only the humble heart which is also the meek, and which, as such, does not fight against God... [or] ...contend with Him. This meekness, however, being first of all a meekness before God, is also such in the face of men, even of evil men, out of a sense that these, with the insults and injuries which they may inflict, are permitted and employed by Him for the chastening and purifying of His elect” - *Trench, Syn. Sec. xlii***



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**Gentleness (v.23)** – The meaning...“is not readily expressed in English, for the terms meekness, mildness, commonly used, suggest weakness...whereas prautes does nothing of the kind...it is difficult to find a rendering less open to objection than 'meekness'; 'gentleness' has been suggested, but...prautes describes a condition of mind and heart, and...'gentleness' is appropriate rather to actions...” - *From Notes on Galatians, by Hogg and Vine*





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**Gentleness (v.23)** – “It must be clearly understood...that the meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command.” - *From Notes on Galatians, by Hogg and Vine*



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Gentleness (v.23) – “Described negatively, meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all.” - *From Notes on Galatians, by Hogg and Vine*



## **“Led by the Spirit”: Love, Kindness, Gentleness**

### **Rom. 8:13-14; Col. 3:9-14**

- 1. Have you put off the old man with his deeds? (works of the flesh)**
- 2. Have you put on the new man, renewed in knowledge?**
- 3. Are you being led by the Spirit to produce love, kindness, and gentleness?**