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# A Christ-like Character Trait

## Philippians 4:5





- AV | Let your moderation be known unto all men.
- ESV | Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.
- NKJV | Let your gentleness be known to all men.
- HCSB | Let your graciousness be known to everyone.
- NASB95 | Let your gentle spirit be known to all men.
- NET | Let everyone see your gentleness.

**Let me remind you why we look at multiple translations @ Berean.**

**We are trying to get after the truest meaning of that text possible. We want to know what did Jesus mean? What did his apostles mean? What was their intent? What did they want us to comprehend from their words?**



**The KJV translates Strong's G1933 in the following manner:** gentle (3x), patient (1x), moderation (1x).

## Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. seeming, suitable
- II. equitable, fair, mild, gentle

## Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Le

ἐπιεικής *epieikḗs*, ep-ee-i-kace'; from G1909 and G1503; appropriate, i.e. (by implication) mild:—gentle, moderation, patient.



- **AV** | **Let** your moderation be known unto all men.
- **ESV** | **Let** your righteousness be known to every man.
- **NKJV** | **Let** your gentleness be known to all men.
- **HCSB** | **Let** your gentleness be known to every man.
- **NASB95** | **Let** your gentleness be known to all men.
- **NET** | **Let** everyone see your gentleness.

Each  
uses  
'let'

# Let Defined

1. to cause to: make
  - let me know
2. used in the imperative to introduce a request or proposal
  - let us pray

Merriam-Webster







**So we conclude it is  
imperative that  
Christians make  
their gentleness  
known to all.**





**How do you  
preach a  
sermon on  
gentleness  
in a church  
full of  
warriors?**



**Let's look at three  
other times this  
same Greek word  
is used in the NT.**



KJV Strong's G1933 matches the Greek ἐπιεικής (*epieikēs*).

"**gentle**\*" AND "**G1933**"  
occurs in 3 verses in the KJV.

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📖 Tit 3:2

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but*  
gentle, G1933 shewing all meekness unto all men.

📖 Jas 3:17

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then  
peaceable, gentle, G1933 *and* easy to be intreated, full of  
mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without  
hypocrisy.

📖 1Pe 2:18

Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only  
to the good and gentle, G1933 but also to the froward.



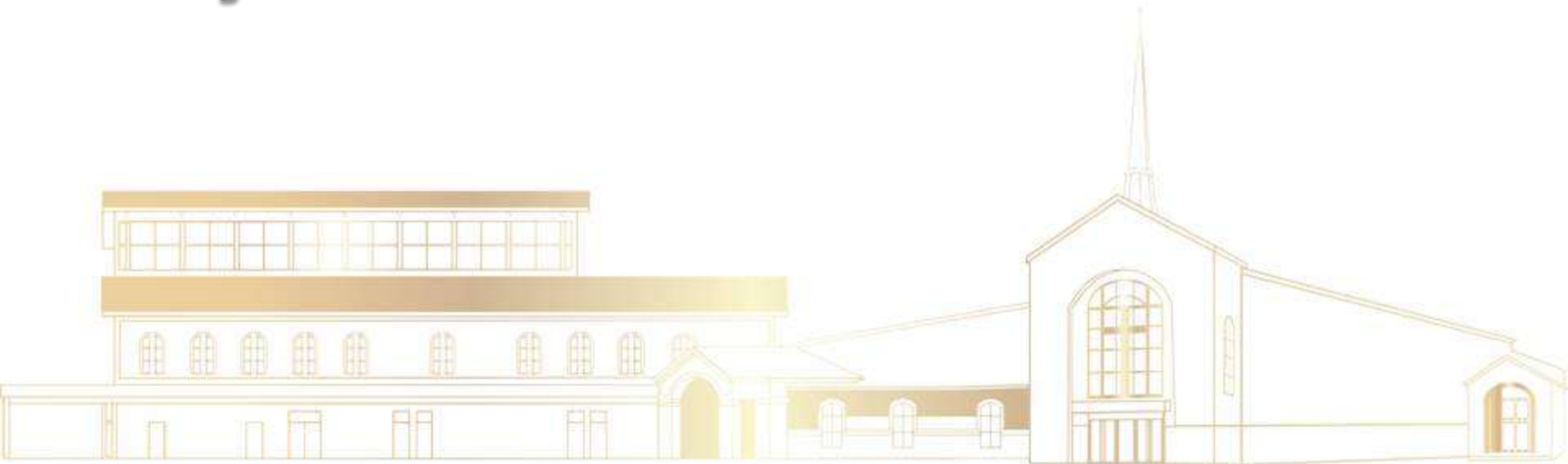
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# Turn to Titus 3:1-2



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**Look @ the verses in  
your own translation.**





# Titus 3:1–2 (NET)

- Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work. <sup>2</sup> They must not slander anyone, but be peaceable, **gentle**, showing complete courtesy to all people.



# Gentle Defined

1a: belonging to a family of high social station

c: honorable, distinguished; *specifically : of or relating to a gentleman*

d: kind, amiable — used especially in address as a complimentary epithet

e: suited to a person of high social station

2a: tractable, docile

b: free from harshness, sternness, or violence

3: soft, delicate

4: moderate



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**Look back at the  
context of this  
instruction  
beginning @ v. 11**



**For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. <sup>15</sup> Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.**



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**And now**

**James 3:17**



# James 3:17

- But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.



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**And now**

**1 Peter 2:18**



# 1 Peter 2:18

- Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.



**Moderation**  
**Reasonableness**  
**Graciousness**  
**Gentleness**





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# Turn to

# 2 Corinthians

# 10:1



**Now I want to remind you why  
we are seeking to develop this  
aspect of our Christian  
character.**

**This is NOT about being 'good  
people' who do 'good things!'**



**This is about being  
conformed to the  
image of Jesus  
Christ.**

**(Romans 8:29)**



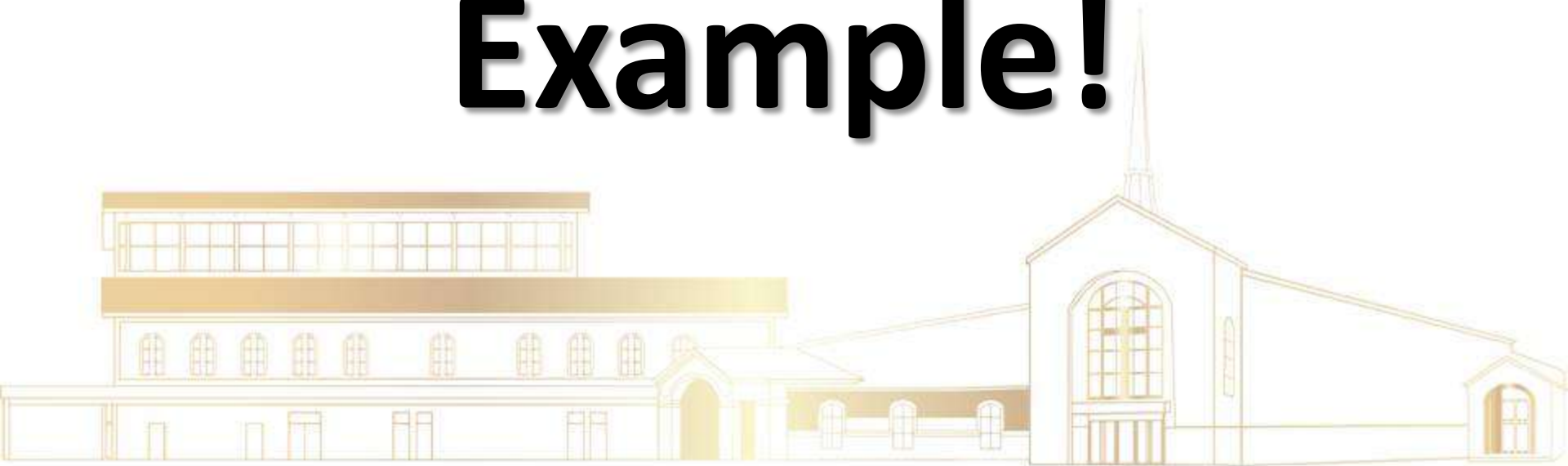
# 2 Corinthians 10:1

- I, Paul, myself entreat you, **by the meekness and gentleness of Christ**—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—



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**So Christ is the  
Ultimate  
Example!**



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**Yet, we know that there  
were times when Jesus  
was harsh.**



# Matthew 23:27-28

- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For **you are like whitewashed tombs**, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within **you are full of hypocrisy** and lawlessness.





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**Look @**  
**Matthew**  
**21:12-17**



**<sup>12</sup> And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.**

**<sup>13</sup> He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”**



# John 2:15

- And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen.
- And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.



**Yet  
Paul  
writes**



# 2 Corinthians 10:1

- I, Paul, myself entreat you, **by the meekness and gentleness of Christ**

In spite of isolated incidents of harshness, Christ's life was characterized by gentleness.



# Where is this

**Moderation**

**Reasonableness**

**Graciousness**

**Gentleness**

**needed?**



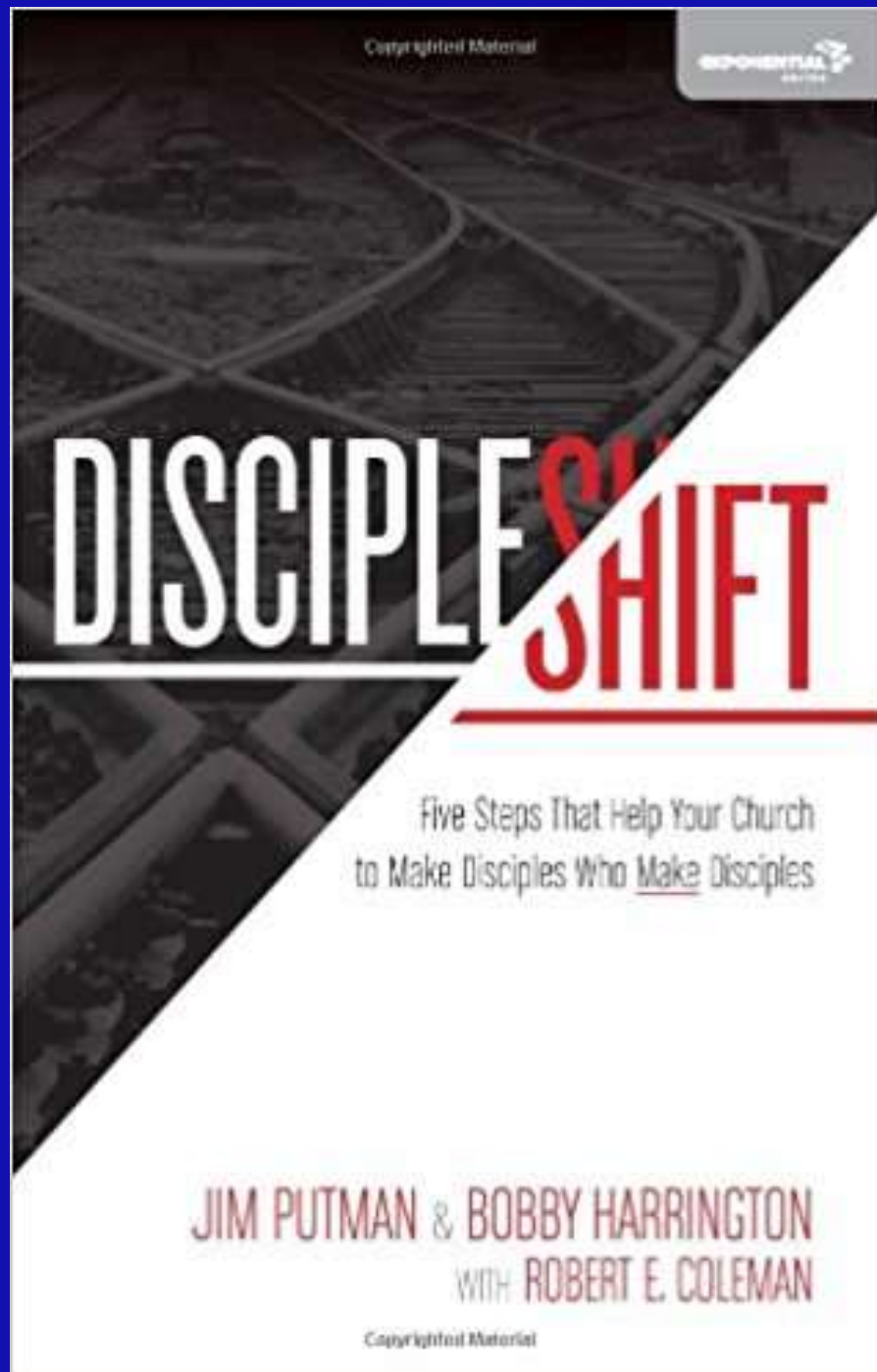
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**#1**

**In our  
marriages**







I was reading chapter 1 of this book and I was once again confronted with the reality that the divorce rate between Christians and non-Christians is nearly identical. If Berean is really a disciple-making church our marriages will NOT end in divorce.



**Think About How Much**

**Moderation**

**Reasonableness**

**Graciousness**

**Gentleness**

**is needed in marriage**

# Reasonable

- not extreme or excessive
- moderate, fair
- having the faculty of reason
- possessing sound judgment

Merriam-Webster





**Gentle? Gracious?**  
**Moderate? Reasonable?**

**Is the silent  
treatment  
anymore  
gracious or  
reasonable?**



# Gracious

- marked by kindness and courtesy
- marked by tact and delicacy



**Consider how difficult it is to  
be around someone who is  
unreasonable.**

**We will say,  
“You’re not being reasonable!”**





# Who says:?

I am divorcing my husband.

He is consistently kind, gracious,  
reasonable, and gentle with the  
kids and me.



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**#2**

**In our  
church**



**Look back  
at  
v. 2**



# Philippians 4:2



- I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.
- I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

**Do you think these  
two women were  
being reasonable?**



**Were these two women  
being**

**Gracious**  
**Gentle**

**one to another?**

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**As long as sin exists we will have  
disagreements in the church.  
It is the way we deal with our  
disagreements that marks us as  
followers of Christ.**





**Imagine being in a church full of**

**Moderate**

**Gracious**

**Gentle**

**Reasonable**

**People who love God, His Word,  
the Gospel, and each other.**



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**#3**

**In our  
interactions  
w/ the world**



**Everyone wants a boss or co-worker that is**

**Moderate**  
**Gracious**  
**Gentle**  
**Reasonable**

**Provided they are not lazy,  
untrustworthy, or incompetent.**





What about profanity?



# Profanity ?'s

- Are you being gracious?
- Is your use of profanity harsh or excessive?
- Are the words you are using reasonable?
- Can you cuss someone out and be gentle with them?



4:5. A practical way to have joy is by exhibiting gentleness to all. **This lets the church and world see that you belong to the Lord.** The Greek word *epieikēs* means “**yielding, gentle, kind.**” It includes the ability to go beyond the letter of the law in treating others, to provide something beside strict justice. It does not insist on personal rights or privileges. Christ embodied such gentleness in his dealing with all people.



**Our commentator, Max Anders, gets to the heart of the matter as this moderation, gentleness, reasonableness, or graciousness is a manifestation of Christ-like love.**





# 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

- Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.
- **It [love] does not insist on its own way;** it is not irritable or resentful;



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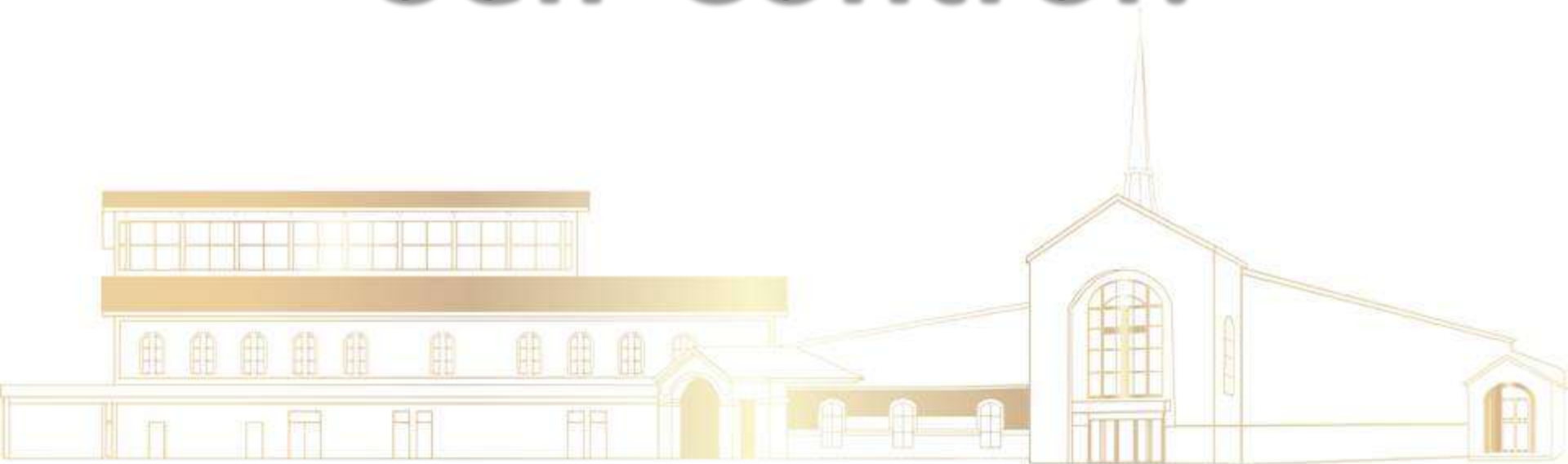
What is needed  
to make your  
**gentleness**  
known to all?



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**#1**

**Self-Control!**



## 2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

- for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

## Titus 2:12 (ESV)

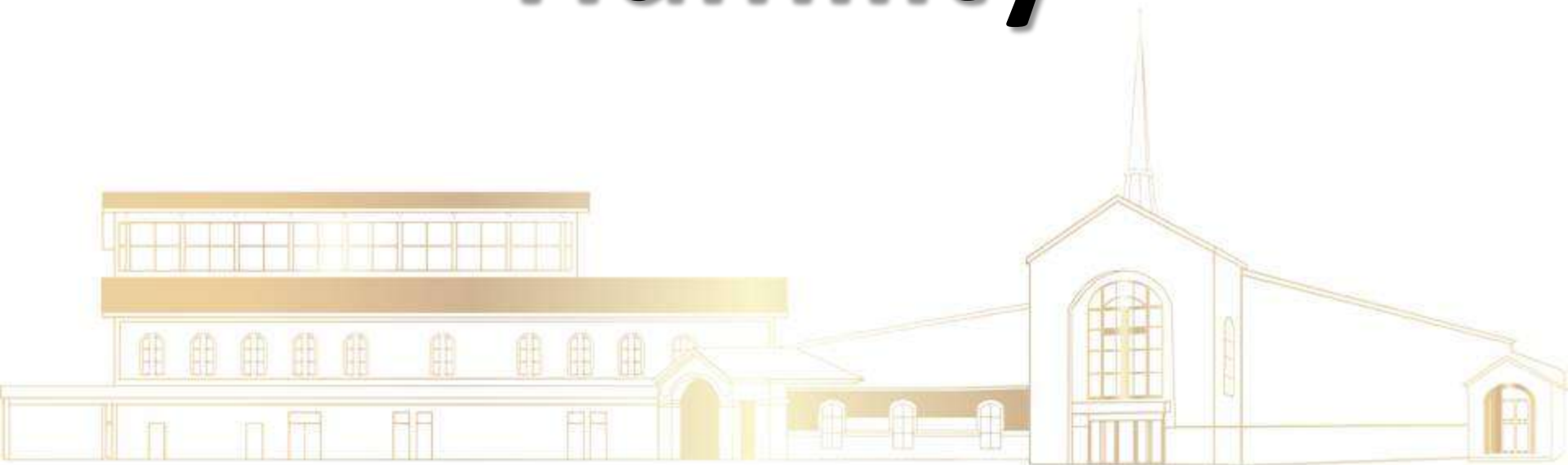
- [The grace of God] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,



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**#2**

**Humility**



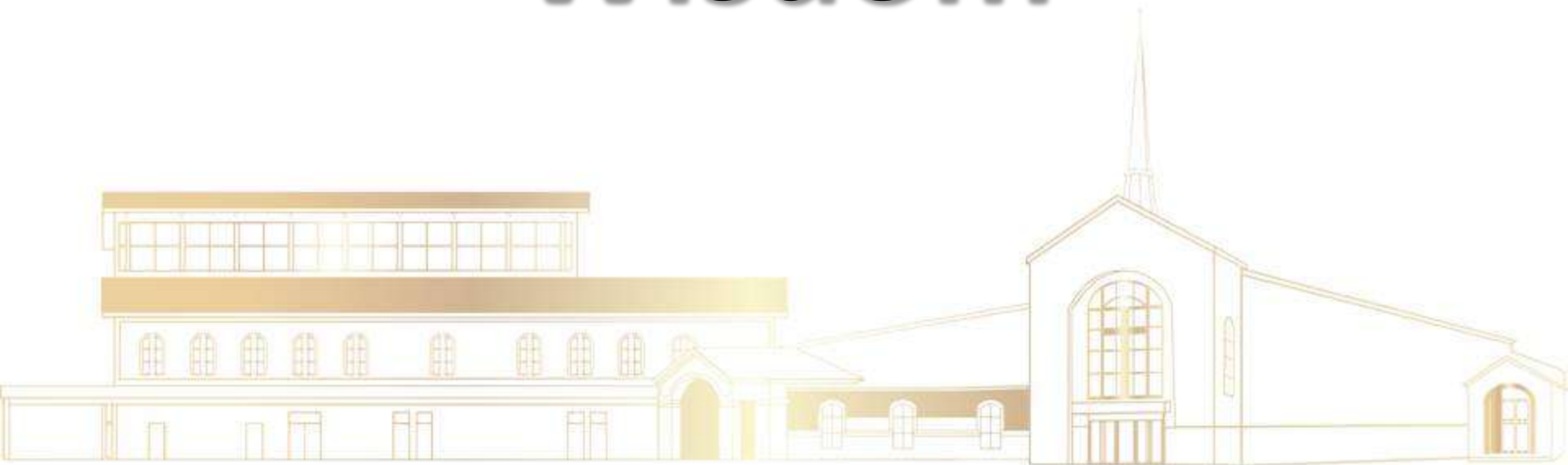
# Philippians 2:3-8

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, **but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.** <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, **he humbled himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

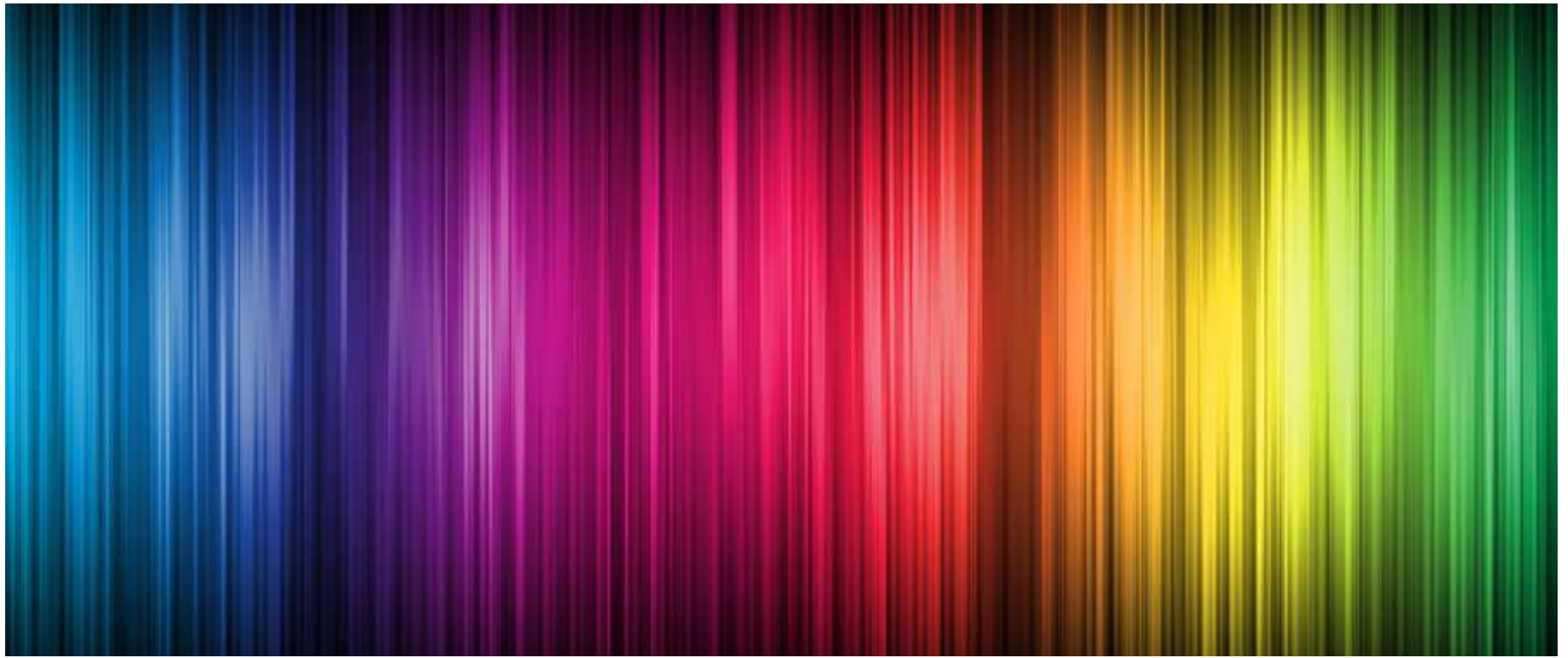


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# #3 Wisdom







**Uber-gentle** ← → **Harsh**

**Imagine for a moment a  
spectrum of gentleness.**



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**#4**

**Patience**



# Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is

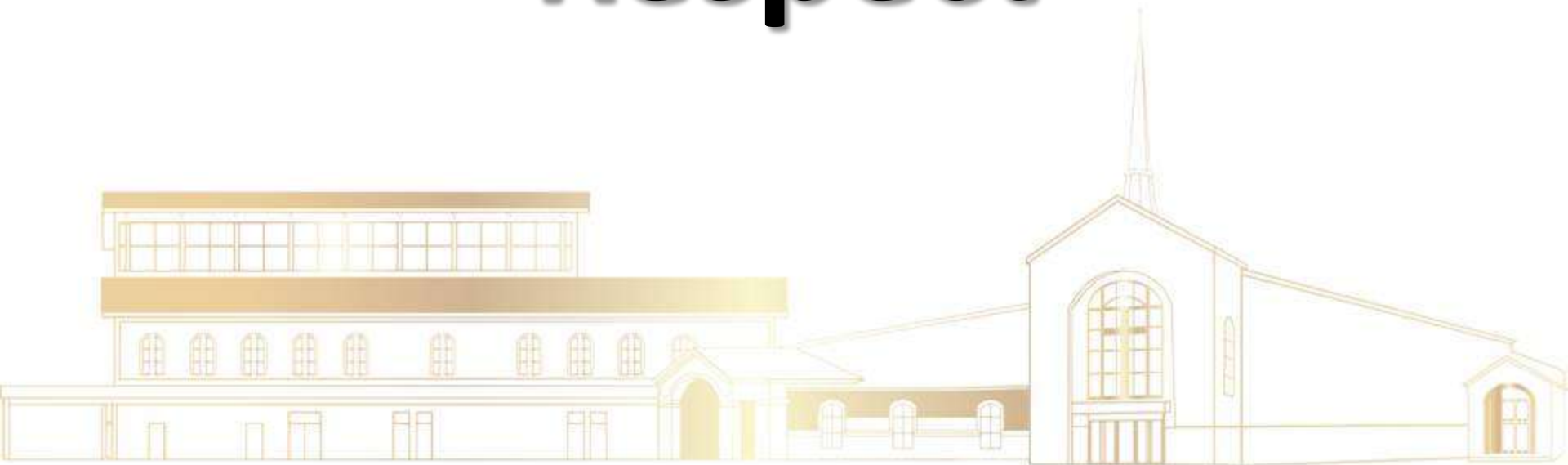
- love
- joy
- peace
- **patience**
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self-control



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**#5**

**Respect**



# Two things

- 1) I need to potentially respect all people because all humans are made in the image of God.
- 2) I need to potentially respect all people because Christ died for this person.

