



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

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Scripture: Philippians 4:5

NC0182

TITLE: Why Gentleness Matters

I remember being asked, “Would you act differently if Jesus was standing next to you?” Isn’t that an intriguing question? I think we’d all say, “Yes.” If Jesus was walking with me each day, I’d probably not yell at my kids or be rude to my wife. Others might say they wouldn’t look at pornography or have that additional drink. But here’s what’s deeply disturbing, is that the Holy Spirit, our Helper and God, is living inside us. And yet, we still sin. But the good news is we don’t have to. We can live intentionally and with expectancy.

This is what Paul said about this in Philippians 4:5 (NLT):

[“Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.”](#)

I love reading Paul. Paul is theological and practical. This letter is rich with encouragement and exhortation. In verse 4, Paul said, “Always be full of joy.” And then he follows by saying, “Let everyone see your considerate spirit”. In a previous episode, we said, “Let your light shine”. Let people see Christ in you. Let people see the difference Christ is making.

The word Paul uses here for considerate is a rich and deep word. It can’t be translated easily into just one word. One commentator said it means, “sweet reasonableness, generosity, goodwill, friendliness, charity toward the fault of others, mercy toward the failures of others, bigheartedness, forbearance, and gentleness are some of the attempts to capture the rich meaning.” [John MacArthur – Philippians, pg. 276] We are called to share the grace, mercy, love, compassion, forgiveness, and so on that God has shared with us.

Then Paul says, “Remember, the Lord is coming soon.” This is a translation, so it’s a bit debated what Paul meant. The ESV says, “The Lord is near.” So some theologians think this is referring to Jesus’ return. Others think it’s in regard to His nearness in His presence. When you look at verse 6, the latter seems to be correct.

When we remember that Jesus is near us, it motivates our right behavior - no, not perfect behavior. The disciples fought and sinned in front of Jesus. But Jesus’ presence is a comfort for us all when we recognize it.

When I remember that He is near and the Spirit is inside me, it motivates me to live with consideration and gentleness.

So here's my challenge for you today: show just one person that same generosity, goodwill, consideration, gentleness, grace, mercy, or love. God graces us out so we can grace out others. We are never called to hoard the love of God. So find one person to share it with today.

Share in the comments below what you did. I am excited to hear your story as you go win the day.