Meekness

Intro: The Greek word translated “meek” is praus (πραΰς). This word is very difficult to translate. In describing it Vine writes, “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; it is closely linked with the word humility,...it is only the humble heart which is also the meek, and which, as such, does not fight against God and more or less struggle and contend with Him.” He goes on to say this meekness is “the fruit of power.” Some have expressed this word as “strength under control.” One of the terms used as a synonym is submission. This is the area that I would like to discuss in this lesson.

I. Submit To God
   A. We are encouraged to humble ourselves under God.
      1. Jam. 4:6-8 “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”
      2. 1 Pet. 5:5-6 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”
   B. He is the one with ultimate control.
      1. Jer. 18:6 “O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.”
      2. Because He is creator.
         a. Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
         b. Exo. 20:11 “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”
         c. Acts 17:24 “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;”
      3. Because He sustains this world.
         a. Acts 17:28 “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”
         b. Col. 1:17 “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”
   C. He is the one who provides salvation.
      1. Salvation comes as a gift from God.
         a. Rom. 5:15 “But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.”
         b. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
      2. We must obey in order to be saved, but it is God that saves us.
         a. Rom. 6:17 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
         b. Heb. 5:9 “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
D. He will judge us.

1. Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

2. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

3. Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

II. Submit To Others

A. Elders

1. The Work of elders

a. It is expressed in the term *episkopos* (ἐπίσκοπος).
   (1) It means overseer, denoting one who takes the oversight.
   (2) Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
   (3) 1 Pet. 5:2 “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”

b. They do not have the authority to make laws for God, but they must take oversight in carrying out God's laws.

c. Their area of work is in the area of expediency (expediting God's commands).

2. We thus are to submit to them.

a. 1 Thes. 5:12-13 “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

b. Heb. 13:7, 17 “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.... 17Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

B. Husband

1. Husbands as head of the home must take the lead; the family (wife) must submit to him.

2. Eph. 5:22-24 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”

3. Col. 3:18 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.”

4. Tit. 2:5 “To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

C. Parents

1. Parents are to train their children in the right way of life.

a. Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

b. Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
2. Thus, children are to submit to their parents.
   a. Eph. 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”
   b. Col. 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”

D. To one another
1. Eph. 5:21 “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”
2. 1 Pet. 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”
3. Phi. 2:3-4 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

III. GUIDED BY PRINCIPLES
A. Love
1. General teaching
   a. Mat. 22:37-39 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38This is the first and great commandment. 39And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
   b. 1 Tim. 1:5 “Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:”
2. For God
   a. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
   b. 1 John 5:2-3 “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
3. For others
   a. Rom. 13:8 “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”
   b. Gal. 5:14 “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
   c. Phi. 2:1-2 “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

B. God’s Word
1. Acts 4:19 “But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.”
2. Acts 5:29 “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Conclusion: Jesus says, “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (Mat. 5:5). Have your life been filled with meekness? Have you been submissive (to God, and to others)?