

## Youth Sunday School – Treating Others Gently – 2/14/21

- Fighter verse
  - Prayer
  - Briefly discuss New City Catechism and associated verse
    - Question 31: What do we believe by true faith? Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles' Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." (Jude 3)
  - Review Memory Verse List
- Review** - Gentleness is to treat others with a genuinely sensitive regard for their thoughts, feelings, and rights.

### **Treating others gently**

#### **1. *Actively seek to make others feel at ease or "restful" in our presence.***

- a. Do not act so strongly opinionated/dogmatic that others are afraid to express opinions.
  - 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."
  - What might gentleness in expressing our opinions look like or not look like?
- b. Be sensitive to others' ideas and opinions.
  - See James 3:17 above.
  - Tolerance for others is being gentle with others in the presence of disagreement.
    - Our culture defines tolerance as "you must agree with me".
  - What might gentleness in responding to others' opinions/ideas look like or not look like?
- c. Avoid displaying your commitment to Christ in a way to make others feel guilty.
  - Ephesians 4:1-3 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
  - What might gentleness in displaying our commitment to Christ look like or not look like?
    - What did the pharisees do?

#### **2. *Demonstrate respect for the personal dignity of the other person.***

- a. Seek to change a wrong opinion/attitude by persuasion and kindness – not coercion.
  - 2 Tim. 2:24-25 "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth"
  - How can we love people while trying to change a wrong opinion/attitude?
  - Optional role playing. One person believing something untrue about God and another trying to gently persuade. (i.e. Everyone is God's child, Jesus is not God, A loving God wouldn't let people suffer)

b. Avoid blunt speech and abrupt manner. Answer with respect, sensitivity to the reactions of others, and considerateness of how others may feel.

- Gentleness does not feel like we can say what we want and whatever happens happens.
- The way we say things matters. Proverbs 27:14 "Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing."
- What are examples of blunt/abrupt speech versus gentle speech?

c. Not threatened by opposition or resent opposition, seeks to gently instruct while trusting God to dissolve opposition.

- 1 Peter 3:15 "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"
- What would it look like to make a defense gently/not gently to those who do not know God?

**3. Do not degrade or belittle or gossip about someone who falls into sin. Instead grieve, pray, and restore gently.**

- Galatians 6:1 "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness"
- How should we deal gently with those caught in sin? Why is it tempting to degrade someone in this situation?

- Overall, we want to treat people like this > 1 Thess. 2:7 "we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children."

- Do we treat people like this? What are some areas you have opportunity to grow in?

- We want to love people in this way because God first loved us and continues to love us in this way.

- Prayer requests

**For Next Time: - Read Chapter 15 of Practice of Godliness, "Gentleness".**

**- Keep memorizing the gentleness memory verses.**

**Gentleness Memory Verses**

- Proverbs 15:4 "A gentle tongue is a tree of life"

- Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- Girls: 1 Peter 3:3-4 "[Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear]— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."

- Guys: 2 Timothy 2:24-25 "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness."

- Bonus: 1 Peter 3:15 "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"