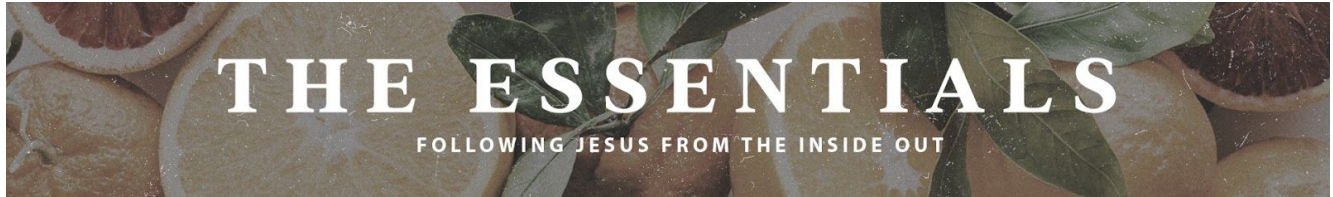


BEYOND SUNDAY: November 22, 2020



Series Page: wearepcc.com/theessentials

Message: Gentleness

The Essentials 9-week series will focus on what it means to reflect the character of Jesus. Each week we will wrestle with one of the essential characteristics of Jesus with the hope of it bearing fruit in our lives as we become more dependent on the Spirit to lead us. This week our focus is on the eighth fruit of the Spirit - gentleness.

#1

How would you rate our society as a whole, with regards to the fruit of gentleness ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))? According to this week's speaker and Lead Pastor of New City Church in Oakland, Gabe Garcia, gentleness seems to be absent from our culture today, and a quality that does not seem to appear of great importance to us. Would you agree or disagree? Pastor Gabe **defines gentleness as controlled strength and displayed grace**. What does that mean to you?

#2

Pastor Gabe informs us that gentleness is an opportunity to “shine brightly” (remember our Radiant series!) as a set apart people. And that God has called us into relationships with, do life with, love and be united with, people that are different from us. This includes those who wrong us, annoy us, and frustrate us! Gentleness says, despite the hurt, pain and frustration, I will communicate LOVE, WORTH, and RELATIONSHIP. How is this possible? See [John 15:4](#).

#3

In his book [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#), Christopher J. H. Wright says that David compares God to the gentle shepherd. See [Psalms 23:2-3](#) and [Isaiah 40:11](#) and list the acts of gentleness that you see. How have you seen God's gentleness in your life?

#4

We know that Jesus both confronted sin with boldness and strength, *and* showed gentleness to others. When others had no time for the weak and the marginalized, He was countercultural in His responses showing

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tremendous controlled strength and grace. Give a list of attributes of Jesus and then compare them with what Jesus called Himself in [Matthew 11:28-30](#). Who, according to this verse, benefits from this rest? Who, in *your life*, might benefit from this kind of rest?

#5

We see gentleness in both God the Father and in Christ the Son. And we know we are to be imitators of God. How does the apostle Paul urge us to live in [Ephesians 4:1-3](#) and [Galatians 6:1](#)? Those in need of spiritual rest are watching our behavior. Pastor Gabe says that without gentleness there is no unity within the church. He goes on to say that today's world is filled with hatred, anger and rage. If we, as a church, do not show controlled strength and displayed grace, we are not differentiating ourselves from the world. The result, therefore, is that those in need of rest are not attracted to us, and therefore not attracted to our Savior. Discuss this concept.

#6

Practical application:

1. Identify those people in your life that rub you the wrong way, have hurt you, think differently than you, live differently than you, frustrate you.
2. Which of Pastor Gabe's areas of encouragement might help you to implement biblical gentleness?
 - a. Take time to build real relationships
 - b. Be slow to speak
 - c. Meet people in their pain

Remember, it's not about us mustering up enough gentleness to be a better person. It's about staying connected to our super power, and keeping our eyes fixed on Him, to change **us**, not others!

Actions & Resources:

- As we prepare for our last week in this series, The Essentials, reflect on the truths that God has brought to your heart thus far.
- Read Chapter 9 (Self-Control) and the Conclusion in [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#) by Christopher J.H. Wright.
- Join a [House Church](#).