

**1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 — Gentleness (Galatians 5:23)**

As we seek to partner with the Spirit to make room for His fruit to grow, consider:

- Do you agree that society at large does not value gentleness? Why do you think that is so?
- Can you think of someone at your church/in life who embodies gentleness? What are the qualities they exhibit which make you think like this?
- Are there any particular circumstances where you find it hard to be gentle? In this, ask God to help you in this area in coming days so that “your gentleness (will) be evident to all” (Phil 4:5).

*Additional Questions – choose 2-3 to further your thinking.*

- What part of the sermon stood out as important to you this week? Why?
- Read 1 Peter 3:14-16. Why do you think gentleness and respect are paired together in this passage?
- What reaction does Peter say speaking with (biblical) gentleness bring from others? Reflect on whether this matches your own experience and consider what other factors may have been at play, if not.
- What ways can we ‘score an own-goal’ if we don’t cultivate this fruit?
- Read 2 Corinthians 10:1. What do we learn about gentleness from here?
- 1 Peter 3 implies that his listeners are going to need to respond gently to people who they may not like or who may treat them badly. Do you do this? Does it seem hard to you?
- We have highlighted how the Fruit of the Spirit is to be understood as many aspects of the whole. It is therefore unsurprising that this aspect links to self-control. Would you also link it with any other aspects?
- Reflecting upon personal experience, consider some scenarios which might have played out differently if you’d spent time cultivating Christlike gentleness. What ‘weeds’ were in the way that you may need to root out or to ask God for help in dealing with?