



BREAKING THE ICE

What is one thing you want right now that is not a need?

What do you think the world needs right now?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we continued our series of What the World Needs Now with Pastor Chris Nichols teaching about gentleness. Chris describes some of the ways Jesus exemplified gentleness in His life.

1. How do you describe gentleness? Do you have someone in your life that exemplifies gentleness?

We can read about the different disciples in Matthew 10. Much like today's political environment, Jesus had two disciples that were on extreme opposite sides of the political parties, however, they did not put their hope in the government, they put their hope in Jesus.

2. Have you been guilty of putting your hope in the government? What hopes are you putting into people (government officials) that you need to put into Jesus?

Read Matthew 5:5

In this verse, it talks about meekness. Meekness is similar to gentleness. Jesus talks about gentleness because He was gentle. But just because He was gentle, doesn't mean He was weak, actually, He was the opposite of weak.

Jesus didn't put up with treating others badly. In fact, we know that Jesus overturned tables because He did not agree with how the temple was being used. At the same time, He was still compassionate, kind and gentle, and more than anything, He loved His enemies because He knew love would win.

Read 1 Peter 4:8-11

3. Who is an example of Christ, in your life, that shows love in the midst of turmoil and disagreements with others?

4. What are some examples of acts of Christ's love you could do for someone you don't agree with?

There is no one that can compare to the way Jesus lived His life of love, grace and gentleness, except maybe, Mother Teresa. So, when it comes to living a life of loving others and being gentle with them, we all have a lot to learn.

Pastor Chris talked about how right now, society tends to paint others with a wide brush. For instance, if we don't agree with someone, we tend to dismiss them as a person.

5. Where have you been dismissive with someone that doesn't agree with you? How do you think Jesus would treat that person?

Pastor Chris told a story about his friend Christina. Christina said, "Everyone makes sense in light of their story." We don't always know what someone is carrying, what possible trauma they have had in their life, or even what's currently going on in their life. When we give grace and react with gentleness, we are being like Christ.

It's not "one person against each other" and "if you don't agree with me you need to change." We all need to be gentle with one another, even if the person is not gentle with us.

6. How can you demonstrate gentleness to others you don't agree with this week?

As we go into a politically charged week we need to remember, Jesus is the hope of the world. He is the only one who can change the world. He died on the cross for our sins so we could spend eternity with Him. The gentle ones that out love inherit the earth and, a lot of us need to change. If we are following Christ, we need to act out of love and gentleness instead of anger and defensiveness so the world can see Jesus through the way we respond.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for my sins to cover me where I've messed up. Will you convict me in the areas of my life where I am not showing gentleness to others? Will you show me where I am making an idol of the things I feel so strongly about? Bring me to repentance on the things I put above you and help me turn towards you. In Jesus' name, Amen

ACTION STEP

At the end of the sermon, Pastor Chris took some time to repent of the things in his life that don't fall in line with the fruits of the spirit (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control -Galatians 5:22-23). When we humble ourselves and repent to God for not operating out of the His spirit, He gently forgives us out of His grace, mercy and love.

What do you need to repent of? Take some time to confess and repent with a trusted friend or group member. Be respectful of one another during this process and don't judge one another. Be gentle, gracious and loving as you pray for one another. Check on each other this week and keep each other accountable for acting in gentleness and love.