

Mature Love Defined Part 5

I. Gentleness of God (Cherishing Frailty)

- Love is not rude.....(1 Cor. 13:5)
 - A. God loves us with great gentleness. He intentionally cares for and cherishes our hearts and lives. We are being held and led gently by the most powerful hands in all the universe. Though He has all ability to make us do what He wants or intends for us to do, He is loving and gentle and will not act contrary to His nature, no matter what the circumstances may be.
 - B. When gentleness is operating in relationship, we are free to choose to respond rather than being manipulated or forced through fear or strength. Great dignity and worth is placed upon those who are treated with gentleness and tenderness. Leading in a spirit of gentleness takes much more time, intentionality, and strength then leading in a spirit of rude forcefulness.
 - 1. Synonyms of Gentle - Respectful, nice, gradual, polite, exact, tender, handling with delicacy.
 - 2. Antonyms of Gentle - Disrespectful, rough, intrusive, insulting, ignorant, and crude
 - C. The Gentleness of God - (Gen. 3:6-13, 2 Sam. 22:36-37, 2. Chro. 36:15-16, Ps. 36:7 and 91:4, Jer. 30:21-22, Is:54:5-8, Hos. 11:3-4)
 - D. The expression of Gods gentleness in Christ - (Is. 40:11, 42:1-3, Mat. 23:37, Luke 9:51-56, 12:49-50, John 6:44, 12:32-33)

II. Benevolence of God (Extravagant Giver)

- Is not self seeking..... (1 Cor. 13:5)
 - A. The scriptures speak to us from Genesis to Revelation about a God who does not just give out of His excess but who instead gives all He has to others. He takes all His time, leadership, strength, honor, and resources

and uses it to cause others to prosper. He gives it over and over to those who have not earned it and who squander it constantly.

- B. He not only gives all he has to others, but His benevolent heart went to the depths of giving when He gave His very life and died for his enemies. Many times we find it a great sacrifice to give a small portion of what we have to those who we like. He gave all with a joyful heart to those who hated Him without recognition.
 - C. Synonyms of Benevolent - Caring, generous, bountiful, tender or kind hearted, and philanthropic.
 - D. Antonyms of Benevolent - Cruel, hateful, mean, merciless, miserly, stingy, greedy, and selfish.
1. The Benevolence of God (Lev. 25:13, Ps. 34:9, 37:11, 50:10-11, 84:11, Rom 8:32, Jam. 2:5)
 2. The expression of Gods Benevolent love through Jesus (Mat. 17:27, Luke 8:3, 9:58, John 17:2, 2 Cor. 8:9, Eph. 5:25, Col 1:16:17, 1 John 3:16-17)