

RUSSELL SANDERS

2-2-2026

THE SPIRIT-LED LIFE – LESSON 6

GENTLENESS AND BROTHERLY KINDNESS

We are studying the God-given characteristics of the Spirit-led life of a believer. The characteristics are the fruit of the Spirit working in and through us.

The fifth fruit listed by Paul in Galatians 5:22-23 is gentleness. It closely corresponds to the characteristic of brotherly kindness found in 1 Peter 1:7, so I will put them together as one.

The Greek word for gentleness is “chréstotés’ (pr. Kray-stôt’-ace). It means kindness, goodness, or gentleness. It can also infer moral excellence or usefulness in relationships.

The Greek word for brotherly kindness is “Philadelphia.” It means getting along with others in harmony, in kindness, in a gentle spirit, or an overall goodness in relations with other people.

We often call Philadelphia as “brotherly love.” When you compare 1 Peter 1:7 (brotherly kindness) and Galatians 5:22, (gentleness), you can see that both speak of the same characteristic.

We are not to treat or speak harshly to others. We are not to ignore them as if they do not exist. We are to respect and regard them with the same kindness, goodness, and gentle manner with which we would like to be treated. This includes people you may dislike, disagree with, or have little in common with.

Kindness with a gentle spirit will go a long way in showing your Christian character to everyone you encounter.