

Developing the Jesus-based Quality of Deference

Deference: yielding my freedoms so that I do not offend others

Rudeness: deliberately using caustic words, actions, or attitudes that enhance my self-worship and that intentionally hurt others

Spiritual Disciplines: spending time in God's Word, listening to God

Jesus:

After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?"

"From others," Peter answered.

*"Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours." **Matthew 17:24-27***

Rude or Imprudent:

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27:27-31

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

*In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. **Matthew 27:39-44***

Areas that require deference:

1. pursuing God
2. marriage
3. parenting
4. sarcasm
5. boasting
6. gloating
7. anger
8. tactlessness
9. gossip
10. revenge

Areas that can confuse deference with love

1. sharing Jesus
2. honesty
3. obedience
4. serving
5. patience

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

I Corinthians 13:4-5

Developing the Jesus-based Quality of Meekness

Meekness: yielding my rights and expectations in order to serve others joyfully; power under control

Anger: living out unsundered rights or expectations emotionally; often power “out of control”

Spiritual Disciplines: spending time in God’s Word, personal worship, intercession

Jesus:

Seven hundred years before Jesus’ birth, the prophet Isaiah wrote of Him:

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Isaiah 53:7

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Luke 22:47-51

“By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you...” II Corinthians 10:1

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. I Peter 2:23

Anger:

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. James 1:19-20

Areas that require meekness: anger:

1. pursuing God
2. marriage
3. parenting
4. unanswered prayer
5. when wrongfully accused
6. emotionally charged situations
7. when I am right
8. my anger
9. unmet expectations
10. desire for revenge

Areas where God can use God-centered

1. injustice
2. unrighteousness
3. self-worship
4. prejudice
5. pride