

Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness

1. Kindness [KJV gentleness] *Chrestotes* =goodness, kindness, generosity (Arndt/Bauer/Gingrich)

“Opposite of harshness and severity (Romans 11:22). It is the grace of character that is contrary to meanness and austerity” (Zodhiates)

As a character trait of God: Rom. 2:4, Eph.2:7, Titus 3:4

As a Christian trait: Gal. 5:22/ Cor.6:6/Col.3:12

2. Goodness *Agathosune* =Active goodness. uprightness. More than chestotes. Is consistent even with zeal for the truth or for righteousness and sharpness and indignation in rebuking

As a character trait of God: 2 Thes.1:11

As a Christian trait: Rom.15:14,/Gal.5:22/ Eph.5:9

What’s the difference between *chestotes* and *agathosune* ?

“They represent, respectively, the kindlier aspect of goodness versus the sterner quality when doing good to others is not by gentle means” (Trench following Jerome)

Chestotes is the kindly disposition toward others, while *agathosune* is kindly action on their behalf (Lightfoot).

3. Gentleness [KJV meekness]

Praotes =gentleness, humility, courtesy, considerateness,meekness (Arndt/Bauer/Gingrich)

As a character trait of Christ: 2 Cor.10:1

As a Christian trait: 1 Cor.4:21/Gal. 6:1/2 Tim.2:25/Tit.3:2

“It must be clearly understood, therefore, that the meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power.” (Vine)

Self-control of natural passion of anger (1 Cor. 13:5/Proverbs 16:32/19:11/25:28)

These traits in an individual spring from proper attitudes toward God, others and self:

1. Toward God:

[meekness is] “an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temp of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting...” (Trench)

2. Toward others:

Associated with longsuffering and compassion (Eph.4:2/Col.3:12)

3. Toward self:

“Described negatively, meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all.” (Vine)