

# Experiencing God: Gentleness

1 Peter 3: 15; Matthew 12: 18-21

Rev. John Anderson

Bay Presbyterian Church

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## Introduction:

Steve Wilson

Personality often a study in contrasts

Made in the image of God – diversity of personality

We don't often think of God as gentle

### I. Gentleness is a Portrait of Christ

a. Mt. 12: 18-21 - “Behold my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon Him, and He will proclaim justice to the gentiles. He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets; a bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not quench until He brings justice to victory.”

b. In context –

i. healed a man with a withered hand

ii. entrenched religious establishment sought to destroy Him

iii. Jesus withdrew – the path of deferential gentleness

iv. In the face of looming personal destruction, He healed

v. Gentleness – Gk. – prautes – ointment/balm

c. Amarilys plant

d. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit. – Psalm 34: 18

e. Life is a struggle

f. We need the struggle

g. Jesus Himself struggled

h. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. – John 3: 16

### II. Gentleness is Also a Strategy for living – Take Away

a. Avoid self righteousness – 1 Peter 3: 15 – yet do it with gentleness and respect

b. Follow Christ – “Set apart Christ in your hearts.” – 1 Peter 3: 15

c. Watch your mouth! – Prov. 15: 1 “A soft answer turns away wrath”

d. Gentleness as a lifestyle is commended by Christ