

Mark of a Man # 11

KJV: Patient; All other versions: Gentle

Area: Reasonableness

Definition: sweetly reasonable, going beyond legal rights to the intent of grace

Scripture: 1 Tim. 3:3 2 Cor. 10:1; Titus 3:2; Phil. 4:5; James 3:17; 2 Pet. 2:18;

Bible Usage: Sweet, reasonable consideration springing from a recognition of the danger that ever lurks upon the assertion and insistence of legal rights, lest they be actually pushed to immoral limits, that is, violating grace itself.

Proverbs: 11:17; 19:11

Functioning in my Soul:

1. **Mind** - deep perception of the difference between legally and morally right
2. **Conscience** - ruled by grace
3. **Heart** - mastering the Christ-like attitude of grace in every situation
4. **Frame** - clearly developed principles and goals as they are learned
5. **Will** - no decision made without a consulted Frame in this area
6. **Emotions** - no emotional conflicts of having violated principles of grace

Resolved:

To always exercise the mildness that puts the gracious intent of a law over the letter of that law.

Essay:

Source of Problem: In my view, a lack of grace, stemming from the pride of seeing myself doing quite well in my own eyes. This leaves little need for grace for myself in my view, therefore having little grace for others.

Problem: The weak around us are mistreated, and condemned. We see “rules as rules,” with no space in our souls for the gracious intent of the rule. Lives are destroyed through this self-righteous treatment of others.

Solution: Somehow or other, learning GRACE, and in this case, God’s gracious intent of all His laws. Pride will have to be humbled, and the need for grace learned. Until then, this person is not qualified for leadership.

Avoidance: Sufficient time to judge this Mark will be needed. The qualified man will be known, along with all the other Marks, as a man who seeks out the weak and the wanderer.

