

2 Corinthians 10

- Begin final section.
- Some textual critics think Paul's attitude switch is too abrupt, thus they consider this section a different letter from a different author.

10:1 – Paul is not exasperated, but appeals to them as Christ would. This appeal is not emotional, but finds its source in meekness and gentleness.

- Jesus called himself meek in Matt. 11:29
- Jesus said the meek were blessed in Matt. 5:5
- Paul urged other believers to show the same meekness in Phil. 4:5
- “meekness” is *prautes* – it indicates the humble and gentle attitude which expresses itself as patient submissiveness to offense, and is free from malice and not seeking revenge.
- “gentleness” is *epieikeia* – which means “fitting”, “suitable”, “reasonable”, “fair”. When used to refer to authorities (like the Apostle Paul or the Lord Jesus Christ) it indicates indulgence, equity, lenience combined with a humble, patient steadfastness which is able to submit to injustice, disgrace and maltreatment without hatred or malice by trusting God and doing what is right because of faith in the Truth and final results of gentleness.
- Meekness and Gentleness are NOT incompatible with decisive action, judgment of character, and rejection of misconduct, ill-will or destructive relationships.
- Note Jesus driving out the money changers in John 2:14
- Note Jesus words of judgment and separation in Matt. 23

Chrysostom even points out that the end of verse 1 is Paul echoing the false slander and accusation coming from his critics in Corinth.

- Paul will continue to contrast his human facility and inability with the almighty power of God that works through him when he proclaims the truth
- See weakness addressed originally in 1 Cor. 2:3
- Paul continues to express his weakness in 2 Cor. 11:21-12:10
- Paul's critics refer to him as a coward and a promise breaker (2 Cor. 1:12)

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