

Sunday: 01/06/2018

Humbleness of Mind and Servants of the Truth

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. - (Col. 3:12)

What does it mean that we are to be characterized by gentleness? To begin with, it means being humble. Love will purge us of any desire merely to win as well as of intellectual self-righteousness and contempt for the opinions and abilities of others. The apologist for Christ is one characterized by "humbleness of mind" (Ac. 20:19; 1 Pe. 5:5) — a vital New Testament concept that cannot be captured by our word "humility" alone. So the call to "give an account" is, first, not a call to beat unwilling people into intellectual submission, but to be the servant of those in need, often indeed the servant of those who are in the grip of their own intellectual self-righteousness and pride, usually reinforced by their social surroundings.

Second, we do the work of apologetics as relentless servants of truth. Jesus said that he "came into the world to testify to the truth" (Jn. 18:37), and he is called "the faithful and true witness" (Re. 3:14). Truth reveals reality, and reality can be described as what we humans run into when we are wrong, a collision in which we always lose. Being mistaken about life, the things of God, and the human soul is a deadly serious matter.

Reflect: Because the work of apologetics is so important we must consider the following questions. (Q) How do we speak the truth in love (Ep. 4:15)? (Q) How do we speak with all the clarity and reasonableness we can muster, while simultaneously counting on the Spirit of truth (Jn. 16:13) to accomplish, what we could not do on our own?

Devotional by: Dallas Willard

Book: *The Allure of Gentleness: Defending the Faith in the Manner of Jesus*



*Dallas Willard Ministries is excited to partner with Jeff Whitebread, who, through his work with Capitol Commission, ministers to those serving in the Pennsylvania State legislature, their staff members, and those in the lobbying community. We believe the thoughts and ideas contained in Dallas' book, *The Allure of Gentleness*, are timely guidance for those who seek to stand for truth in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus himself. Dallas acknowledged he gave up trying to get people to do things, preferring instead to inspire them to think things through on their own and come to a different view of matters. We pray that in making this material available, we can continue in his footsteps, playing our part in helping others catch a vision of life with God, becoming his apprentice, and walking in the easy yoke of Jesus — even when engaging the rough and tumble world of the public arena.*