



# DRESS YOURSELF WITH GENTLENESS



## Dress yourself with...Gentleness

What do washing machines, dish soap, a grizzly bear named “Ben,” and *you* have in common? You, the bear, and those other items can all be *gentle*.

St. Paul encouraged the members of one of his churches, “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:5).

Too often we associate gentleness with being a wimp. That is not true. Washing machines can rip clothes to shreds. Soaps can irritate the skin. Bears can maul people. And just turn on the news to see what destruction human beings can do.

Nevertheless, we can be gentle. We can learn to be unselfish and considerate in all we do.

Think what the world would be like if everyone showed unselfish consideration for others! There would be no road rage. Children wouldn’t fight over a particular toy. Customers and cashiers wouldn’t stall checkout lines by bickering over sale prices. Divorce might even come to a halt.

Of course, we will never be able to be perfectly gentle in this life. But, Jesus was. With a word, Jesus could calm a raging sea or cause a tree to wither. Yet he never failed to heal the sick, preach good news to the poor, and offer forgiveness to the worst of sinners.

Jesus even offers forgiveness for the times we have failed to be gentle, those times when we insisted on getting our way and didn’t care whom we hurt to get it. When we think of Jesus’ willingness to forgive us, it makes us want to be more like him – gentle and caring.

There was a Christian man whose very presence was a visual definition of words like *strong*, *tough*, and *thoroughly masculine*. Yet for twenty-five years he spent nearly every Sunday afternoon leading a worship service for a hundred mentally retarded women at the state mental hospital.

That man let his gentleness be evident to all. Do you desire that same gentle spirit in your life? See and hear how as you worship and study God’s Word with us!