

## A Beautiful Heart

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by Wayne Goff

*“Rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God” (1 Peter 3:4).*

The incorruptible beauty of a lady’s *“gentle and quiet spirit”* should be attractive to all of us. I suppose there is nothing so repugnant to me as a **loud** and **boisterous** woman. *“A foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple, and knows nothing”* Proverbs 9:13. Such a personality is not the product of a godly, disciplined mind.

But the *“quiet spirit”* of 1 Peter 3:4 simply means one who is peaceable. The same word is translated “peaceable” in 1 Timothy 2:2 when it describes the kind of life we may have when those in authority do their jobs well.

The *“gentle”* spirit is a *“meek”* (Matt. 5:5) spirit, a *“lowly”* or humble (Matt. 21:5) spirit, and thus is *“gentle”* in its nature and disposition. Marvin Vincent explained the Greek word as follows: *“...Christianity has lifted (it) to a higher plane, and made(it) the symbol of a higher good. Its primary meaning is mild, gentle. ... The Christian meekness is based on humility, which is not a natural quality but an outgrowth of a renewed nature. To the pagan the word often implied condescension, to the Christian it implies submission. The Christian quality, in its manifestation, reveals all that was best in the heathen virtue — mildness, gentleness, equanimity — but these manifestations toward men are emphasized as outgrowths of a spiritual relation to God. ... The meekness of the Christian springs from a sense of the inferiority of the creature to the Creator, and especially of the sinful creature to the holy God....” (Word Studies in the NT, I: 37).*

Let the reader contemplate these words and understand that this is why such a spirit *“is very precious in the sight of God”* (1 Pet. 3:4). A heart that is humble, submissive, easy to get along with, because it recognizes its place in the world and in the presence of Almighty God is a person whom God loves and can use best. Greatness is seen in humility — Moses (Num. 12:3), Ezra (Ezra 8:21), wise men (Prov. 11:2) — and God dwells with the contrite and humble spirit to revive and restore it (Isaiah 57:15).

The world promotes itself with a loud, boisterous, self-indulgent, narcissistic clamor, but it is not attractive to anyone, and certainly not to God.

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