

resisting " He goes on to point out that it is "the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is an equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all."<sup>14</sup>

Paul, in another place, shows the necessity of possessing God-given meekness to counter the tendency to engage in conflict which often results in harboring resentment toward one's opponent.

...the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.<sup>15</sup>

The basic principle in this passage, gentle instruction of those with opposing viewpoints, is applicable to team relationships. One of the men interviewed, who has worked under several different pastors, remarked that such an attitude was almost totally lacking in those with whom he worked. There is, in fact, a great need for the cultivation of meekness among Christian workers today. How is this to be done?

Meekness has its foundation in strength. To turn to W. E. Vine once more, he remarks:

It must be clearly understood, therefore, that the meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>W. E. Vine, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, (London: Oliphants, 1940), pp. 55-56.

<sup>15</sup>2 Tim. 2:24-25

<sup>16</sup>Vine, Expository Dictionary, p. 56