



July 2009

Monthly Character e-Bulletin

Building Communities of Character

GENTLENESS (vs. HARSHNESS)

According to Webster's 1828 Dictionary the definition of gentleness is "showing consideration and personal concern for others through genteel behavior or softness of manners; mildness of temper; sweetness of disposition; meekness; kindness; benevolence or tenderness; mild treatment." Furthermore, Webster included gentleness as one of the fruit's of the Spirit, along with love, joy, peace, long suffering, goodness, and faith (moral conviction).



According to Webster, the fruit of gentleness or the character trait of gentleness is the reflection or the overflow of a person's beliefs. If we expound on this concept we can look at the character traits we exhibit in our lives to see what our underlying beliefs really are. For example, if we value other people and/or ourselves, gentleness would be one of the numerous character traits we would demonstrate in our lives.



Men and women of this time and age may not wish to be considered "gentle", because of its perception of being "too soft". Yet, in days long past, the terms gentleman / lady or lady-like were indicative of men and women who were polite; easy and graceful in civil manners or behavior; and free from anything low or vulgar.

In those days to be considered anything other than genteel would have been an insult. Contrast that perception with that of our society today to get a picture of where we are headed. Perhaps gentility wasn't such a bad concept and perhaps our current ideology points to some foundational issues that we can address, beginning with ourselves.

This month, take our Character Pledge and Commit to:

- Show good manners
- Reject violence as a solution to my problems
- Look for ways to ease the pain of others
- Not annoy or irritate others
- Be a peacemaker

What is your vision of good Character?

For more information visit the Prattville Autauga Character Coalition website at www.pacharacter.org

The mission of Prattville-Autauga Character Coalition is to strengthen our communities by promoting excellence in character for each citizen.