

Practicing Patience

1 Corinthians 13:4

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Love is Patient

Building Blocks for Good Relationships

- Exhortation—learn to tolerate each other
- Example
- Execution

We must learn to be tolerant with one another in our marriages.

A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

Proverbs 15:18

You can't be a good parent without patience.

A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

Proverbs 14:29

Patience is essential in the church.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

Patience is essential at work

Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. Proverbs 16:32

Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

Proverbs 25:15

Admonitions from Scripture

- “be patient in affliction” (Romans 12:12)
- “the fruit of the Spirit is patience” (Galatians 5:22)
- “be patient with one another” (Ephesians 4:2)
- “clothe yourself with patience” (Colossians 3:12)
- “be patient with everyone” (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

“preach the Word with great patience” (2 Timothy 4:2)
“be patient until the Lord’s coming” (James 5:7)

Reasons Patience is a Difficult Exhortation to obey

1. Against human nature
2. A life-long struggle
3. Waiting is not a virtue

Love is Patient

- Exhortation
- Example of Jesus Christ
- Execution

Jesus is patient with Peter’s inconsistency

Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) **Mark 9:5-6**

Jesus is patient with the Intellectual limitations of the disciples

Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.” **Mark 9:12-13**

As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” **Mark 9:15-18**

“O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” **Mark 9:19**

Jesus is patient with a skeptical father

“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.” **Mark 9:23**

Jesus has to be patient with the egotism of His followers

Who is the Greatest? **Mark 9:34**

Jesus is patient with the inflexibility of John

"Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." Mark 9:38

Patience of Jesus in

Mark 9

- Inconsistency of Peter
- Ignorance of His three closest friends
- Ineptness of the disciples
- Skepticism of a father
- Egotistical bickering of His followers
- Inflexibility of John

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:21

Love is Patient

- Exhortation
- Example
- Execution—How can we execute that kind of patience?

Remember how patient God has been with you

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Be realistic about people

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:7

Make allowances for people

- Jesus anticipated the failures of His disciples

Work at the art of patient listening

He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.

Proverbs 18:13

Listen before you answer. If you don't you are being stupid and insulting."

What a shame—yes, how stupid!—to decide before knowing the facts!

Proverbs 18:13 (TLB)

Be an impatient listener

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. James 1:19-20

Communicate with patient expressions

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

Avoid pressure points

Learn to welcome interruptions

- A woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment stopped the procession
- Blind man on the side of the road
- Lawyer who interrupted with a question
- Tax collector watching from a tree
- Mother's bringing their children to Jesus

Keep a good sense of humor

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22

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2 Peter 3:9