

Prt 2. LOVE IS PATIENT

Key text: *1 Corinthians 13:4a*

1 Cor. 13 is called the love chapter for it describes what true love is all about.

In verse 4 it says, “*Love is patient.*”

By definition, **Patience** means...

- *The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset*
- *Tolerance of provocation without responding in disrespect/anger*

Historically, it comes from the Latin word **patientia** meaning **suffering**, which also gives us the word patient, referring to someone who is suffering from being sick or injured.

Patience is one of the most important ingredients for a successful and long lasting relationship.

It's a wonderful expression of great wisdom and it solves many problems.

Whenever we express patience, we are showing high moral standard.

It is important to note that patience that projects and help many great minds achieve great success. Ex. *Thomas Alva Edison, Walt Disney and Colonel Sanders.*

On the other hand...

Impatience is a costly exercise. It can cost you money, friendships, pain and suffering... simply because impatience is often followed by bad and poor decisions.

No wonder the Book of **Proverbs 22:24** says – *Not to make friends with the angry and hot-tempered person.*

Also, in **Proverbs 24:21** – *Do not associate with those who are given to change.*

Godly love and a patient spirit are twin sisters, they both go hand in hand.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love... patience... and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Love and patience are both products of God's Presence in one's life.

Because God is love therefore God is patient.

***Exodus. 34:6** – “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness”*

As God's people, **how do we respond when we are faced with difficult people and situations?**

God's love is totally different from ours.

Love is not easily angered or upset.

Patience, endurance and long-suffering are hallmarks of a loving character.

Love melts away the impatience and frustration that so often hinders one's dealing with others.

When one's love fails, and brings frustration and disappoints to us, what is the proper response? According to 1 Cor.13:4, **the loving response is patience.**

What does the Bible say about patience?

a. Patience is learning to understand.

Proverbs 14:29 – *A patient man has great understanding.*

It is when you're supposed to get mad, but you choose to understand.

b. Patience is making allowances for each other.

Eph. 4:2 – *Be patient with each other, making allowances for each other's faults, because of your love.*

We need to be considerate and extend grace to people, making forgiveness our default position.

c. Patience helps us grow during trials.

James 1:3-4 – *the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴Let patience finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

When we exercise patience, we grow and build that godly character that is foundational in our Christian walk.

d. Patience is needed to become effective and productive.

2 Peter 1:5-8 – *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith... self-control; and to self-control, perseverance (patience); and to perseverance... love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Practical ways to grow patience in us...

- *Exercise humility daily.*
- *Live within your means.*
- *Stop blaming other people and be responsible.*
- *Strive to understand, not to make a point.*
- *Be on time, don't make excuses.*
- *Don't argue, be bigger than the situation.*
- *Be kind to unkind people.*
- *Let someone cut ahead of you in line.*
- *Know when to keep your mouth shut.*
- *Try to go on an entire day without criticizing anyone.*
- *Don't sweat the small stuff, it's all small stuff.*

Jesus our great example.

Jesus' life is a complete description on how patience looks like.

For Jesus, the word **patience** means *submission, endurance in meekness, waiting in faith, quietness, contentment, composure, forbearance, suffering in calmness, calmness in suffering.*

His Temptation.

His patience was revealed in those forty days in the wilderness, without food. Through faith and patience, He was able to sustain Himself and fought the longing and craving of the flesh.

His Ministry.

He was so submissive to the Father, always waiting patiently from start to finish.

His Service.

Jesus was a humble servant that rendered perfect service to the Father. He was constantly going about doing the Father's will.

His suffering.

He patiently endured and died on the cross because of you and me.

Read *Matthew 27:12-14; 1 Peter 2:23; Isaiah 53:7; Hebrews 12:2*