



#RELATIONSHIPGOALS

Bringing People Closer Than Ever

CLOSER TO GOD'S HEART

September 17th, 2017

Closer to God's Heart

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. - Romans 15:5 NLT

Matthew 22:36-40

Our Patient God...

1. IS patient.

The LORD is merciful and compassionate; he is patient and demonstrates great loyal love - Psalm 145:8 NET

2. Gives us time to BELIEVE.

Remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. - 2 Peter 3:15 NLT

Don't you realize that it is God's kindness that is trying to lead you to him and change the way you think and act? - Romans 2:4b GW

3. Gives us space to GROW.

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him... - Romans 14:1 ESV

For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust - Psalm 103:14 NLT

...you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation... - 1 Peter 2:2 NLT

4. Helps us when we FAIL.

...I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. - 1 Timothy 1:16 NIV

For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again... - Proverbs 24:16 NIV

So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. ¹³ Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong. - Hebrews 12:12-13 NLT

5. Comforts us when we are DISCOURAGED.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles... - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

6. Values DIVERSITY.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with... patience. Bear with each other... - Colossians 3:12-13 NIV

Matthew 18:26-35

How to Practice Patience with Others:

- Recognize that patience is a choice, not a FEELING.
- Put space between your emotions and your REACTIONS.
- Fill that space with EMPATHY.
- Always see the person in the PROBLEM.
- Make a choice to never do what someone DESERVES.
- Add PRAYER & repeat.

My Next Step This Week...

- Memorize *Romans 15:5*.
- Embrace the heart of God regarding patience toward others.
- Get involved in deeper community through a small group.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

Walk the Talk

A Small Group Discussion Guide

1. What helped you, more than anything, to become more patient in life?
2. Why is it important to keep in view the Great Commandment (see Matthew 22:36-40), on this matter of patience with others?
3. Which of the six characteristics of “Our Patient God...” helped you the most to commit to being more patient with others?
4. Read aloud Romans 15:1-7 -
 - a. How was Paul using human pride to create more humility in the “stronger,” and greater compassion for the “weaker”?
 - b. Review or read out loud Romans 14 - How does Romans 14 help you understand Paul’s admonition in Romans 15?
 - c. Why is being other-centered, instead of self-centered so much more Christ-like? Explain.
 - d. Why is hope so essential to helping us all grow to become more like Jesus? How does the Scripture in our lives help us toward that end?
 - e. Read Romans 15:7 one more time. How has Christ “accepted you”? Name some examples. How can we transfer that over to others?
5. What is the most practical point for you under “How to Practice Patience with Others,” in the outline above? Explain.
6. Have a time of prayer for each other in this area of greater need for patience toward one another.