

PATIENT WITH ‘THEY’ Fifty Shades of ‘They’ – Part 5 of 5

“Lord, I want to live a blameless life, but how I need your help Lord, especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should.” Psalm 101:2

DISCOVERIES IN THIS SERIES:

#1: We bring our hopes, dreams and desires into a relationship. But if we're not careful they begin to feel like **EXPECTATIONS**.

#2: In Healthy relationships it's a race to the **BACK** of the line.

#3: Healthy relationships know that sometimes you have to throw things **OUT** of the box.

#4: Healthy relationships and healthy couples make it a habit to **CHOOSE** to believe the **BEST**.

#5: What you place in that gap is what you **DECIDE** to place there.

#6: Healthy relationships practice **PATIENCE**, because it's the best example of love in **ACTION**.

KEY TRUTHS ABOUT GOD’S PATIENCE:

KEY TRUTH #1: Patience is at the heart of God’s **CHARACTER**.

“I am the Lord God. I am merciful and very patient with my people. I show great love, and I can be trusted.” Exodus 34:6.

“The Lord is merciful and compassionate; he is patient and demonstrates great loyal love.” Psalm 145:8

KEY TRUTH #2: Because God is patient, He gives us time to **DISCOVER** him and be in a **RELATIONSHIP** with Him.

“Remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.” 2 Peter 3:15a

“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

KEY TRUTH #3: Because God is patient, he gives us space to **MATURE** in our faith.

“As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him. . .” Romans 14:1a

“For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.” Psalm 103:14

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

KEY TRUTH #4: Because of God’s patience, He 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

“For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again. . .” Proverbs 24:16a

KEY TRUTH #5: Because God is patient, He **COMFORTS** us when we’re 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 1:3-4a

KEY TRUTH #6: Because of God’s patience, He values **DIVERSITY**.

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

FOUR WAYS TO SHOW PATIENCE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

#1: Overlook **IRRITATIONS** and **HURTS**.

“Love is not irritable or easily angered.” 1 Corinthians 13:5

“Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them separates even close friends.” Proverbs 17:9

“It is to your glory to overlook an offense.” Proverbs 19:11b

When you get irritated or offended, ask yourself three questions:

1. **WHY** am I angry?
2. **WHAT** do I really want out of this?
3. **HOW** can I get it?

“Be careful that when you get on each other’s nerves you don’t snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15

#2: Be **KIND** when they don’t deserve it but **NEED** it.

“Love is patient... Love is kind... Love is always supportive.” 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7

“A man’s wisdom gives him patience...” Proverbs 19:11a

“Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help.” Proverbs 3:27

“Kindness makes a man attractive.” Proverbs 19:22

“Don’t be hateful to people, just because they are hateful to you. Rather, be good to each other and to everyone else.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15

#3: Let go of **PAST** hurts.

“Love keeps no record of wrongs.” 1 Corinthians 13:5b

“Love is not rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges.” 1 Corinthians 13:5

#4. Believe that God is **WORKING** in their life, even when you don’t see it.

“Love always trusts, love is always hopeful, and love always perseveres through whatever comes.” 1 Corinthians 13:7b

PRACTICAL TIPS TO PRACTICE PATIENCE THIS THANKSGIVING

- Recognize that patience is a **CHOICE**, not a **FEELING**.
- Put space between your **EMOTIONS** and your **REACTIONS**.
- Fill that space with **EMPATHY**.
- Make a choice to never do what someone **DESERVES**.
- **PRAY** and repeat.