

## **Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions: Love is Patient**

### 1. Love is Long Suffering

Jason gave an illustration of sacrificial love. How would you recognize whether love is sacrificing or self-serving? Can you give an example of love in your life that has suffered long? What makes this type of love so inspiring? What is one thing you can do to ensure that you are demonstrating a love that is long suffering?

### 2. Patient Love Requires Forgiveness

What relationships in your life right now require a love that is patient and long suffering? Is your family broken today because of hurt, a lack of forgiveness, or a hastily misspoken word that never should have never been said? Today, love can start with you. You can't fix the hurt, you can't wipe away the pain, but God can. He can use your contrite heart and patience to show someone you genuinely love, what genuine love looks like. It might start with a difficult call, to say, "All is forgiven, let's start over."

### 3. Patient Love Requires Asking for Forgiveness

Asking for patience is way of life we must adopt. The kingdom of the world says, "don't show any weakness or admit to any mistakes," but Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven". Who in your life do you need to ask for patience? Who needs to see in you a contrite heart that knows they are a work in progress? It really can make all the difference in the world.

### 4. Love takes Time

Be intentional about what you spend you time on. It is the one gift that you can never get back. The world rushes at a breakneck pace. It tells you hurry or you will be left behind. Maybe to be left behind by such a cold confused world is not such a bad thing.

Show patient love in life —

Trust God with your love, slow down!

Show patient love in your family —

What is one thing you do as a family to avoid the sneaky thief of joy? Don't long for yesterday or yearn for tomorrow so much that we miss today.

Show patient love in your church —

Show patience with your church leaders and members. You can fight among yourselves with personal attacks, fight about gray areas, fight about whose

roles are most important, or you can realize there is a better way. The way of patient love recognizes that there are many differing types of people, personalities, and gifts among any body of believers. Instead of letting differences divide, let's be patient, understanding it takes all types to make a healthy church.

Write down one Scripture that speaks of God's patience towards us.

In light of His patience, how should we show patience?