

## **What is Love? - Love is Patient**

*1 Corinthians 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; 2 Peter 3:8-9; Ephesians 4:1-3*

### **A Prayer for Patience**

We rarely ever think about patience unless we need it, and when we need it, we want it right \_\_\_\_\_.

Which shows us just how far we really are from it, and how \_\_\_\_\_ we need it.

In a world of \_\_\_\_\_ gratification, patience is hard to find: Amazon Prime, drone delivery, Star Trek.

### **Defining Patience**

Google: “the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.”

King James Bible: “long-\_\_\_\_\_.”

### **Biblical Patience**

The world knows there is \_\_\_\_\_ in being patient. They don’t need Jesus or the Holy Spirit to cultivate it.

For example: “the marshmallow test,” seed time and harvest, waiting for fruit to be ripe, letting others finish speaking, retirement savings, customers and coworkers.

But the motivation and focus for all of this is \_\_\_\_\_. That’s not \_\_\_\_\_!

When God calls us to love, he’s calling us to take our eyes \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves and put them on someone else.

*Patience is when we are as aware of their needs and their dignity as human beings as we are of our own.*

### **The Path to Biblical Patience**

We \_\_\_\_\_ in our patience (love) for others when we consider the patience shown to us in similar circumstances.

The number one example for us all: \_\_\_\_\_ himself.

### **God’s Patience for Us All**

With our stubbornness and the dumb, evil things we do, the fact that we are still here at all is \_\_\_\_\_.

God continues to \_\_\_\_\_ for us in spite of ourselves.

God continues to love us even though we sinned and broke his \_\_\_\_\_.

He patiently developed a \_\_\_\_\_ to save us and put it into motion.

He patiently watched and waited as his Son entered this broken world.

Jesus patiently loved people that never seemed to “get it,” people that would \_\_\_\_\_ on him.

Jesus patiently stood before crowds demanding crucifixion, Pontius Pilate, and Herod.

Jesus patiently waited on the \_\_\_\_\_ for six hours, and in a \_\_\_\_\_ for three days, to save \_\_\_\_.

*His infinite patience for us gives us a capacity for patience that nothing else can.*

What is God saying to you today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are you going to do about it? \_\_\_\_\_

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