

The Fruit of Patience

Galatians 5:22; Romans 12:17-21

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- My unusual hobby in my teen years
- How long is your fuse? *"The stature of a man is measured by the length of his fuse."*
- Explosive anger is...
 - a work of the flesh – Galatians 5:19-21
 - leads to all kinds of abuse—James 3:6, 8-10
 - by-passes the mind—Proverbs 14:29; 17:27
 - does not defuse tense situations but rather inflames them—Proverbs 15:18
- Remedy: Walking in the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit—Galatians 5:16

The Fruit of Patience

A. Patience with PROBLEMS—James 1:2-4

1. Defined: An attitude of heart whereby we accept and tolerate unfavorable circumstances.
2. Progression: Trials produce perseverance, then character, and finally hope.-- Romans 5:3-5
3. Key: We experience through the Spirit the incredible love of Christ.—Romans 8:35-39
4. Never used of God, for God has no problems which He cannot handle.

B. Patience with PEOPLE—Galatians 5:22; Romans 12:17-21

1. The **Meaning** of "longsuffering"
2. The **Models** of Longsuffering
 - a. **Our God is longsuffering**
 - 1) He has every right to be ticked off at us. -- Romans 1:18
 - 2) Our God has a long fuse. -- 2 Peter 3:9, 15
 - b. **Jesus Christ is also longsuffering.** -- 1 Timothy 1:12-16
3. The **Means** of Longsuffering—Romans 12:17-21
 - a. **Don't try to get even! Let that up to God**—Romans 12:17, 19
 - 1) Example of David in the Psalms—Psalm 54, 56, 57, 58, etc.
 - 2) Exhortations from James—James 5:4-9
 - b. **Replace wrath with love!** -- Romans 12:17,20-21
 - 1) Whole context is about love.
 - 2) Scriptural illustration—Proverbs 25:21-22
- C. **Seek peace, if at all possible!**—Romans 12:18
 - 1) Two keys to pursuing peace—Colossians 3:12-14
 - a. **Forbear**—giving others time and room to grow; putting up with immaturity.
 - b. **Forgive**—giving others the gift of the release of the offense; letting go of the offense
 - 2) Learning to *"keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*—Ephesians 4:1