

Patient Love – Part 3

1 Corinthians 13:4; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 1-17-2021

*Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant
– 1 Corinthians 13:4*

Trust and Love

The most important question we can ask: *What does God want from me in 2021? Trust and Love!*

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything,
but faith working through love. – Galatians 5:6*

Temptation to Complaining and Despair

It's interesting that two major Old Testament pictures of the future Cross of Christ are associated with the sin of complaining and despair over our circumstances! The evil of complaining is not in mourning sin or difficult circumstances and wishing they were different or even in seeking to change them, but in 'fault finding' and 'slander' toward the One who is sovereign over the sin and difficult circumstances! – Numbers 11:1; Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 21:4-9

*Patience is trusting and loving in the unplanned place, at the unplanned pace,
with difficult people and uncomfortable circumstances.*

'Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger and is associated with mercy ... Patience is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope.' (Hogg and Vine)

Biblical patience is not simply about 'waiting' but about 'waiting well': waiting or staying in relationships and in circumstances with a continued commitment to trust and love! – Psalm 37:34; Romans 12:12

Patient Love in All Circumstances

How do we exercise patience in difficult circumstances?

- It's not 'just grin and bear it.'
- It's not 'just endure it.'
- It's not proud defiance.

The Bible calls us to a much more humble and dependent approach!

1. Identify God's hand in your circumstances.

2 Peter 3:9; Lamentations 3:37-38; Job 19:21; Psalm 95:7a; Ecclesiastes 9:1; Acts 7:55; Psalm 16:11; 1 Peter 5:6

God's hand *is* in your circumstances, you just need to:

- Humbly recognize it.
- Believe that it is for your good.
- Resist the temptation to deny God's hand or His good in it all.

'Resist' denying Christ, including denying His hand in your circumstances!

2. Determine to trust God and wait for Him to fulfill His purposes and promises.

Luke 18:7; Hebrews 6:15; James 5:7-8; Colossians 1:11; Genesis 50:20

3. Take one day at a time and trust God for His grace.

Matthew 6:33-34; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

4. Be encouraged by the patience of others.

Hebrews 6:12; 2 Timothy 3:10; James 5:7-11

Conclusion

We fight sin and pursue obedience knowing:

- We can only overcome *forgiven* sin. *Have you turned from your sin and trusted in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?*
- We can only overcome forgiven sin by *God's grace* (enabling): by the Spirit and through the Truth. *Are you fighting sin with the means of grace? With God's Word, prayer and in fellowship with other believers?*

Questions for Application this Week

How is your patience in your circumstances?

- Are you accusing God of poor management of your life?
- Are you accusing God of failing to love you?
- How do you need to trust and love in your current circumstances?