

The Importance of Love

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

1 Corinthians 13

v1. “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”

WO Love: our influence is meaningless

v2. “And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

WO Love: our ability is empty

v3 “If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

WO Love: our value is worthless

Love is Patient

Love is patient... (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Patience: the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.
Perfect message to kick off VBS week!! :)

Know what's so difficult about being patient? PAUSE 30 Seconds

It's hard!

Parenting - waiting for my daughter to cry herself to sleep

Marriage - praying and waiting for the Lord to "fix" your partner

Dating -

Work - not saying what you really think when your less qualified coworker gets the promotion you've been eying

We are wired to do, fix, control.

Emergency situations make us feel like we've had the wind knocked out of us or were stuck in quicksand

Whats most difficult are things that are beyond our control

Sickness, heartache, disaster, political situations...

It's difficult to pray and wait patiently when there is so much on the line

Maybe you went through or are going through a long period of waiting on God to answer your prayers. Or a long hardship.

It could be God developing in you a character like His own

The most difficult thing to be patient in is the return of a loved one to the Lord

Luke 15:1-7 Lost Sheep

How did the lost sheep get lost?

I also wandered.

I had traded Gods love, peace, joy and all the blessing that comes with an intimate relationship with Him for His patience. I knew He loved me but I thought Christianity was all about what God wanted me to do and I wasn't ready or even capable to do the things I thought were required to love Him. I wanted freedom and I felt He would restrict me from that freedom.

God allowed me to wander because he would rather wait patiently for me to realize that my understanding of him was wrong so that we could have a closer relationship than to keep me safe but distant.

Luke 15:11- 32 Prodigal Son

God is Patient

God is love... (1 John 4:8)
Therefore God is patient

God's patient love when Christ is...
...betrayed
...sentenced unfairly
...ridiculed and spit on and mocked
...whipped nearly to death
...laid upon a cross while nails pierced his wrists and ankles

Then, in one of the most incomprehensible acts of love and mercy to take ALL the sins of the world and lay them on His son as the final blow which broke him

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Luke 6:27-36 (Love your enemies)

Psalm 37:7

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

Psalm 40:1-3

Colossians 3:12-14

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Do you need more of God’s patient love?

The more you spend time with Him the more your heart changes to reflect His