

PATIENT LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is patient...

W. L. Walker has concluded that “*patience implies suffering, enduring or waiting, as a determination of the will and not simply under necessity.*” Likewise, its use in the Old Testament lends itself to hopeful waiting with anticipation. While enduring that which is uncomfortable and undesirable, it looks forward to that which is positive, beneficial, redemptive, and holy.

The Lord has both modeled and deployed patience toward us. Although we are completely worthy of destruction, in love, he has postponed judgment in the hope and anticipation that man will turn back to 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.

Romans 2:4

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Only the patient, agape love of Jesus Christ on the cross could alter the trajectory of our lives because the “wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)” This, in turn, calls us into a life of patience that hopefully anticipates all that God is going to do.

Ro 8:24–25

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

It is this patient, agape love that Paul exhorts the Christians in Corinth to bestow on all around them. Its presence in their faith walk is evidence of God’s spirit working in their lives (Gal. 5:22), and it is a product of God’s wisdom (good sense). The presence of God’s spirit and our alignment with God’s wisdom gives us pause when our inherent desire is to deploy anger and wrath instead of love.

Proverbs 19:11

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

What is your level of patience with the humans around you (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.)?

Are you living with hopeful anticipation that love can redeem all of the people around us?

Does that affect how you treat them and engage them in life?

Are you willing to suffer, wait, and endure so that agape love (God-love) can do its work in the hearts of mankind?

If patience is a product of the Holy Spirit in our lives and willfully choosing the wisdom of God rather than our own, are you connecting with God on the daily and immersing yourself in his Word? Our lives, relationships, and world need more patient, agape love. Will you resolve to choose that this week?

Eyes up!
Ryan