

Perfecting Love:
Love: Patience With Others

Remembering What Matters

Love is patient... 1 Cor 13:4

In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 we find a description of love. People define love in many ways—but the Bible shows us how to recognize REAL love by the way it acts.

A. What is Going On? 1 Cor 3:1-4

Paul is writing to a church that was acting the opposite of love. The church was full of contention, strife, suspicion, jealousy, judging, selfishness, envy, pride, and boasting...to mention a few!

B. What is Patience [Long Suffering]?

1. Makrothumeo (Gk) macro-long and thumeo-tempered
—Long tempered
—Having the long view [from seed to tree] We would never grow to maturity without receiving patient love.
2. Why is patience a description of love?
—It is the way God loves us *Matt 18:21-35*

C. What is Patient-Love Towards Others?

The key to understanding ‘patient-love’ and the other descriptions of love-in-action is to understand:

1. I must take ownership
—Before I can give anything away I must FIRST own it [possess it] myself
2. This is ‘outward’ love
—This is giving—not getting
—When I focus on getting I become impatient
3. Different than the way the world operates
—‘Patient love’ is concerned for the welfare of others, not itself. It does not retaliate or seek revenge. *Matt 5:39*

D. Examples

1. Barnabas *Acts 12:25; 15:37-40; 2 Tim 4:11*
John Mark failed to complete a missionary trip with Paul. When Mark wanted to go on another trip Paul refused. But Barnabas saw the value of ‘patient love’ with Mark. If he had not—the Gospel of Mark may not have ever been written.
2. Stephen *Acts 7:60* “And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”
3. God *2 Peter 3:9* “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
4. Jesus *Luke 23:34* “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”



Put on Love

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. *Col 3:14*

1Co 12:31

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Cor 13:1-8

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient [*long suffering*] and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. But whether *there are prophecies*, they will fail; whether *there are tongues*, they will cease; whether *there is knowledge*, it will vanish away.