

LOVE

Theme: Love is Patient

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: God is Love and God loves us.

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

Read: The first attribute of Love, reminding ourselves that God is love, is that Love is patient. There are many attributes in 1 Corinthians 13 that we will look at in relation to love, but the first attribute is patience. Is there a reason why patience is the first attribute ahead of the others? I believe there is.

God is fully aware of the true state of mankind's heart and how consumed man is within himself because of the fall. God knows man must come to the end of himself, before he will truly give his entire heart over, so He is patient with us, waiting for us to come to this place.

Love is able to wait on another, without time being a factor or an issue and it meets the person where they are at, without any conditions or demands. Love has the ability to wait until all the right conditions are in place for transformation, rather than getting frustrated and disillusioned because of a lack of what it sees.

The apostle Paul spoke of love being patient and how his life as Saul was an example of the perfect patience of Jesus Christ being demonstrated.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Paul is confessing that his life as Saul, a sinner, a Pharisee of the highest order is an example of how patient love is. Everything he did in the name of God that was evil couldn't stop Love from waiting for Saul to discover who he was truly called and chosen to be, even at the cost of itself and others.

His life is to be an example for others as to how patient love is. If love can wait for someone like Paul to come into the reality of truth, then it can wait for ourselves and others, no matter how far we may have fallen from Him.

Questions:

1. Having this perfect patience operating within us, is directly related to the revelation of the Father we hold. Why is this the case?
2. As a general rule, how patient do we think we are with others?
3. What causes us to lose our patience with people?
4. Why is it essential we have this patience operating in us?
5. What has been our experience of either receiving this patience from some one else or being able to minister it to another?

Application: What is one action we need to take in relation to being and becoming more patient?