



From Here to There

Patience & Kindness

Romans 2:4; 1 Corinthians 13:4;
2 Corinthians 6:3-10; Colossians 3:12-17
Danny Hall • October 6, 2013

The character of patience & kindness

The challenge to patience & kindness

The foundation for patience & kindness

The practice of patience & kindness



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Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

Having looked at love, joy, and peace, three beautiful foundational aspects of the fruit of the Spirit, we now turn to two additional characteristics that impact the way we relate to each other. These two are patience and kindness. They appear together in several places in the New Testament showing a passive and active response to others, particularly to others who may themselves be hostile towards us. In stark contrast to the self-centered, self-protective, aggressive nature of the works of the flesh, those who are led by the Spirit display the ability to treat others with patience and kindness.

Engaging with each other

1. What kinds of things make you impatient? How do you most often react/act when you are impatient?

Engaging with the Bible

1. The word patience is literally "longsuffering." How does this translation inform the way you think about patience?
2. Kindness is actively seeking to do good to others. How is this a compliment to patience/longsuffering?
3. In Romans 2:4 both patience and kindness are used to describe how God treats us. Think about how God displays these two attributes. What are some of the ways we experience God's patience and kindness toward us? (see also Romans 3:21-26 and Ephesians 2:7-10)

4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4. How are being patient and kind aspects of loving?
5. In 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 Paul describes the hostile context in which he ministered. What were the attitudes and perspectives he displayed even in the middle of these hardships?
6. Read Colossians 3:12-17. How would you describe the practice of patience and kindness in light of these verses? What are some of their components?

Engaging with our lives

1. In Galatians 5:15 Paul warns the Galatians that they will be consumed if they continue to bite and devour one another. How will our practicing patience and kindness affect the life of our church?
2. Think of some of the difficult people in your life. How might the practice of patience and kindness impact these relationships?
3. What are some practical steps you might take?