



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday –December 31, 2023

To Know Christ...

1 Corinthians 13:4 *"Love is **patient**, love is kind..."*

2 Timothy 2:24 *"The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, **patient** when wronged."*

1 Thessalonians 5:14 *"We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be **patient** with everyone."*

Impatient people are self-centered. Would you agree or disagree? Are we too ashamed to agree because of trying to justify our spiritual immaturity? We all have certain aspects of imitating Jesus that are more troublesome than others. Some require far more effort to change. We currently live in an ever-growing era of impatient people. Do we walk according to Christ or according to the flesh? Patience is not a passive characteristic. Be patient when others want to quarrel, be patient while warning the unruly, while encouraging those who want to give up, and while helping the weak. Patience is about the mindset of love! Impatience will keep teaching opportunities from developing too. Farmers are patient while waiting for the Lord's harvest, but that does not go without engaging properly.

When saints are loving like Jesus, we will grow in patience! We are typically impatient when we have a time-sensitive agenda, or we have many things we want to accomplish, and someone gets in *our* way! (Can we deny being self-centered during any of these junctures?) Ever get impatient from being hungry or tired? Even in times of being wronged by others, we can easily cease to be patient. Being impatient leads us away from Christ-like love, rather than drawing us closer to the Lord. We also grow impatient while enduring the bad attitudes of other souls and we want to react and attack. Can this heart & mindset change?

One aspect of the fruit of the Spirit is patience. (Galatians 5:22) So we must convert from a selfish mindset to a spiritual mindset of humility. We must change our thinking! How often while

growing impatient do we consider ... what does the Lord want my attitude to be in this situation? Is it time to be patient, even though I have been wronged? That is Christ-like thinking! The Lord desires patient self-less people. Can we recognize how patient the Lord has been with us? Are we thankful for His patience? Are we encouraged by His patience that brought about our transformation? Why not seek to give what we have so gratefully received? Impatience only makes sin sickness worse. Why hold on to the problem instead of the solution? Be patient with everyone, that's the heart of Christ to put on, and forgiveness is an aspect of patience too. (Colossians 3:12-13) Unforgiving people are impatient too! Love is patient and kind. Impatient people are not kind either, are they? Impatience will kill us spiritually. It is toxic within our hearts, pushing the Lord out. How patient are we? Are we striving to be as patient as Jesus desires?

- Carey Terry