

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – October 10, 2021

Theme: Love: A More Excellent Way Topic: Love is Patient and Kind

Main Texts: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Colossians 3:12-15

Key verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4a – ‘Love is patient, love is kind’ (NIV)

INTRODUCTION: A brother suffered tremendously for a long time after quitting his paid employment to start a business. Each time he prayed for relief, God responded, “Son, let patience finish its work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” After eight long years of humiliating struggle and frustration, he cried out, “LORD, I understand that patience must complete its work in me. But the bills are not patient! Couldn’t You at least give me some timeline? When, for goodness’ sake, will patience finish this work?” To which the LORD shook His head and whispered to Himself, “He still doesn’t get it. We’d better increase the dosage!” Vocabulary.com describes patience as “*a person’s ability to wait something out or endure something tedious, without getting riled up. Having patience means you can remain calm, even when you’ve been waiting forever or dealing with something painstakingly slow or trying to teach someone how to do something and they just don’t get it. It involves acceptance and tolerance.*”

1. Consider the main texts: 1 Corinthians 13:4-6; Colossians 3:12-15. Verse 4a describes what love is. Verses 4b-6 describe what love does not do. Verse 7 describes what love always does (not sometimes). (a) What is love? (v4a) (b) What does love not do? v4b-6 (c) What does love always do? (d) Why are patience and kindness considered cornerstone attributes of love?

We live in a fast paced, pressure-cooked world which runs on impatience. We want everything instantly. We want to get rich quick - not in the process of time, learning and industry, but right now. We want our spouse to become perfect on the day after our wedding. We want to send off our tender 8-year-old to the secondary school boarding house so she could get into the university at 13. We want a new believer to mature overnight and speak divine mysteries like Apostle Paul. Yet, our God cannot be stamped. He is the God of process.

2. Read James 1:3 and Exodus 13:17 (a) What are the daily traps of impatience in lives of believers today? (b) What are the typical mindsets that cause us to become impatient with one another?

Have you seen the T-shirt, “Be patient with me, God has not finished with me yet?” Another old song said, “He’s still working on me, to make me what I ought to be. It took Him just a week to make the moon and stars... But He’s still working on me.” Think about all the people you struggle to relate with at home, Church, and workplace. It is impossible to genuinely love other people without kindness and patience.

3. (a) Reflecting on the fact that each of us is an unfinished inventory, in what ways can we cultivate and nurture patience and kindness in our hearts? (b) Can you recall and share a time in your life when someone showed you some patience and kindness? How did it feel? How can you extend kindness and patience to others?

Prayer: LORD, thank You for Your unending patience and kindness toward me. Please let the fruit of Your Spirit in me manifest in patience and kindness toward others. Amen.