

Patient in Affliction

Series: Fruit of the Spirit

August 30, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul lists the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 – “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*” Today, we’re going to be looking at the quality and the fruit of patience from the Romans 12.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Would you describe yourself as being more of a patient or an impatient person? Why would you say this of yourself? What would others say?
2. What are some of the factors that contribute to our impatience, especially when it comes to dealing with others? What are some of the things that cause you to lose your patience with someone?
3. Read Romans 12:9-11. Paul seems to focus more on the quality of love in these verses. Do you think that love and patience are related and tied to one another? Why or why not? (read 1 Corinthians 13:4)
4. Read Romans 12:12-13. Paul uses the specific Greek word, *hupermeno* in this verse, which describes a person who stands up for what they believe and who endures under the weight of criticism and abuse. Why is it that oftentimes, it’s so difficult for us to practice this type of patience?
5. Read Romans 12: 14-16. Do you find these verses to be a challenge to apply and live out? Why or why not? How do you tend to respond to those who persecute and oppose you?
6. Read Romans 12:17-21. According to these verses, what is the key to practicing this fruit of patience in our lives? How does Christ’s example serve as a model for us in dealing with difficult and hurtful people?

CONCLUSION

“He deserves not the name of patient who is only willing to suffer as much as he thinks proper, and for whom he pleases. The truly patient man asks (nothing) from whom he suffers, (whether) his superior, his equal, or his inferior...But from whom-ever, or how much, or how often wrong is done to him, he accepts it all as from the hand of God, and counts it gain!” – Thomas A. Kempis (Medieval Catholic Monk).

God’s desire is that we would reflect His character, and His quality of patience and long-suffering towards others, not because they deserve it, but because He has graciously extended these things to us. In practicing the fruit of patience, the goal shouldn’t simply be to become a more patient person. Rather, it should be to reflect the very heart of our Heavenly Father towards the people He loves.

“12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” – Romans 12:12-13