

– 1 Corinthians 13.4 –  
Knox Presbytery 2019  
**Love Is Patient**

1Cor 13.4 Love is patient ...

\* **If I were** to ask you to jot down love's most important qualities, what is the first thing you would list?

\* **The part** of patience and love that we tend to get is the part that deals with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*Psalm 148.5 The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.*

*James 1.19 Be ... slow to anger.*

*Rom 2.4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

*2Tim 2.24 The Lord's bond-servant must ... be ... patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance ...*

*Col 3.12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of ... patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other ...*

\* **There is** also a vital part of patience we tend to miss, which is the part of patience that would have existed in God and in us as his images had \_\_\_\_\_ never entered the world.

\* **In creation**, the God who need nothing, created all things, and he created them so that they take \_\_\_\_\_. The God who could have everything instantly, who need wait for nothing, chose to \_\_\_\_\_ for everything. And God built patience—the need to \_\_\_\_\_ — into the very fabric of the creation. What are some things that would take substantial time in an unfallen world?

\***God also** built into the perfect world he created lots of \_\_\_\_\_. Examples?

\* **It is in** the way that God made everything in a perfect world that we see his \_\_\_\_\_ in its essence. Patience is that quality of God that made him who need wait for nothing, choose to wait for everything. Patience is that quality of God that makes him love, not only the \_\_\_\_\_ product, but every step, every repetition, and every moment along the way. Patience is the deep love and wisdom by which God built time, repetition, and waiting into the creation, not as a means of denying his \_\_\_\_\_ or deferring it, but of prolonging his \_\_\_\_\_ and multiplying it. God's patience in its essence is not a response to our \_\_\_\_\_, but an outworking of his \_\_\_\_\_. Patience, in short, is God's \_\_\_\_\_ in the process he has made, and our patience is our \_\_\_\_\_ in the process God has made.

\* **If we** love God, we must love the way he has made life — we must love the \_\_\_\_\_ he has made and take joy, not just in the \_\_\_\_\_ product, but in every step, every repetition, every moment along the way.

\* **What helpful** analogy has God give us in Scripture?

*James 5.7 ... See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.*

\* **God himself** is the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_.

*Deut 11.11 [T]he land which you cross over to possess is ... 12 a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. 13 'if you earnestly obey My commandments ..., to love the LORD your God and serve Him ..., 14 then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. 15 And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'*

\* **The 1<sup>st</sup>** thing the godly farmer knows, and that forms the foundation for his patience and joy in the process God has made, is that \_\_\_\_\_ is the real farmer. The godly farmer has been privileged by God to participate in God's farming project—a project which extends, not only to the field and the garden, but all the other fields and gardens God has created — marriage, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, community.

\* **The 2<sup>nd</sup>** thing the godly farmer must know & never forget is: It's not about what \_\_\_\_\_ can do; it's about what \_\_\_\_\_ can do.

\***The godly** farmer's job is to joyfully take up the privilege of imitating God and participating in his work.

\* **This takes** all the \_\_\_\_\_ off the godly farmer and enables him to take \_\_\_\_\_ in the process God has made.

\* **What would** be the effect if the farmer is impatient?

\* **We tend** to think of patience as \_\_\_\_\_, and impatience as \_\_\_\_\_. We think of patience as \_\_\_\_\_ things down, and impatience as \_\_\_\_\_ things up. In truth, impatience acts like a \_\_\_\_\_ oven: It speeds up the movement of molecules, but the result is \_\_\_\_\_. It impedes actual biblical \_\_\_\_\_. Patience brings the heat \_\_\_\_\_ and fosters biblical fruit, work, and results. The difference between patience and impatience is not slow vs \_\_\_\_\_, but genuine biblical fruit in a biblical environment vs apparent fruit in an unbiblical environment.

\* **What if** the farmer is so patient, so laid back, that he doesn't really tend the crop?

\* **What if** the farmer hates the weeds and destructive insects that attack the crop?

\* **Even in** our sanctification, God loves and takes joy in each moment and each \_\_\_\_\_ along the way. And as his children, we should too. An irony: There is a sense in which God is more \_\_\_\_\_ with our sanctification than we are, not in the sense of being more pleased with our sin than we are, but in the sense of loving the \_\_\_\_\_, while we just want the finished product. We must hate our \_\_\_\_\_ while at the same time \_\_\_\_\_ and taking \_\_\_\_\_ in the fact that God in his deep wisdom has decided that even our sanctification will be a process.

\* **Never** forget, the joy of the Lord is our \_\_\_\_\_. No joy, no real \_\_\_\_\_. No \_\_\_\_\_, no real joy.