Love is Patient

*January 2024*

Love:

The command to Love is as old as the Bible. In the Torah we find the call to love in the Shema

The Shema – Deuteronomy 6:4-5

New Testament – called to love in Matthew 22:34

Bible says 1 John 4:19 “We love because he first loved us.”

How does God love us? Ahavah - Bible Project Video

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A greater definition of Love: 1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient:

What patience is NOT- Dr. Seuss

What is patience?

In Hebrew: define: Ability to wait quietly or face rejection or delay; ability to bear calmly and with self -control, long suffering, long bearing – (root word to bear or to suffer) endurance.

What is accomplished through a season of waiting?

a. Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

b. Romans 5:3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

c. James 1:2 My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

d. Ezekiel 11:19 I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone form their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.

e. Romans 8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son-

f. 2 Corinthians 3:18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And all who have hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

What is the process by which God transforms us, changes us into His likeness????? Could long suffering, patience, endurance be a tool of sanctification?

Real ways to maintain joy in a season of waiting - Things that can help:

1. remember: We cant do this well without God – we need God-
2. Bible reading
3. Worship music
4. Walking along with someone else/community
5. Thanksgiving – focus on what God has already done –

Ephesians 5:20 –understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, **giving thanks to God the Father** **at all times and for everything** in the name our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sing

Toby Mac, Conerstone

Patrick Mayberry and Zahriya Zachary, Lead on Good Shepherd

Brandon Lake, Fear is not my Future

Small groups:

Identify an area you are “waiting on”-

1. What would it look like if you were obedient- quietly waiting, bearing?
2. What would it look like if you believed in God and his promises?

How would your posture change? Could there be joy in the waiting? Expectant?

1. Can you identify ways God has changed your heart in the waiting? Is this change enough to merit the suffering? How about in light of eternity and God’s purpose, to transform your heart into the likeness of Jesus? (2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 8:29 - above)
2. Acknowledging the spiritual benefits of patience/long suffering – and with the personal transformation you have experienced, do you feel equipped to come along side others – in long suffering – walking with others through the long march of patience?