

Love = Patience

This is from Pastor Craig T. Owens. Excellent relational stuff! Imagine if Father ever got weary of being patient with such as me!

Last week I wrote about how we can be empowered to get along with everyone, everywhere. But something I didn't mention (which might be obvious) is this: Connecting with *everybody, everywhere* is hard work!

Patience
doesn't lose heart
endures misfortune
is slow to get angry
bears with offenses
perseveres bravely

We have to remember that **relationship is the goal**. We're *not* trying to make converts to Christianity and rack up some sort of high score. We're building relationships with people because we love people; and that love for them should motivate us to:

1. Want what's best for them
2. Be willing to serve them

The Bible says this: *And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, **be patient with everyone**.*

Everyone?! There's that word again!

This word *patient* has five parts to its definition. I'm struck by how these aspects of *patience* also echo the definition of *love* in 1 Corinthians 13...

- Patience doesn't lose heart—*Love is patient* (1 Corinthians 13:4a)
- Patience endures misfortune—*Love is not self-seeking* (13:5a)

- Patience is slow to anger—*Love is not easily angered* (13:5b)
- Patience bears with the offenses of others—*Love keeps no record of wrongs* (13:5c)
- Patience perseveres bravely—*Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails* (13:7-8)

How are you doing in your relationships? Are you losing heart? becoming angry? about ready to throw in the towel on a difficult relationship? **Ask God to renew your love, and your patience level will increase as well.**

Let's all strive to love others—even the difficult "others"—the way God loves us!