

Patience

2. Christians Must Demonstrate the Same Kind of Patience that God DemonstratesReview

Christians must understand and practice patience

Other words meaning this are *long-suffering*, *slow to anger*, and *forbearance*.

Our great and good God patiently endures the sinful lives of billions because he is a loving God

- 1) **An essential mark of true believers**, Luke 8:15; 21:19; Col 3:12; 1 Thess 1:3–4; Titus 2:2; 2 Pet 1:6; Rev 3:10
 - Bearing fruit with patience, Luke 8:15 – *persecution, temptation, worry, lusts*
 - As the elect of God, Col 3:12; 1 Thess 1:3–4
 - Older men, Titus 2:2 – *no age limit on impatience*
 - Continual need, 2 Pet 1:6 – *“add”*
 - Commanded by Christ, Rev 3:10
- 2) **An essential mark and aspect of faithful life and ministry**, 2 Cor 6:6; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:10; 3:10; 4:2; Rev 13:10; 14:12
 - Things don’t always go as hoped—events happen and people do things that seem to frustrate, 2 Cor 6:6
 - Pursue it, 1 Tim 6:11 – *NB patience isn’t passive, sit & wait, but struggling forward, Heb 12:1 “run with endurance”*
 - Endure much so souls are saved, 2 Tim 2:10
 - Others can follow your example, 2 Tim 3:10
 - Patient ministry of the Word, 2 Tim 4:2 – *“in season, out of season”*
 - Believing and obeying Christ, Rev 13:10; 14:12
- 3) **Christians must be patient with one another**, 1 Cor 13:4, 7; Eph 4:2; Col 3:13; 1 Thess 5:14
 - Expressing and flowing from love, 1 Cor 13:4, 7; Eph 4:2 – *cf. God’s patience toward us/sinners*
 - As the elect of God, Col 3:13 – *God’s chosen will show God’s character*
 - Involving forgiveness, Col 3:13 – *just as Christ forgave*
 - “Be patient with all,” 1 Thess 5:14 – *no exceptions*
- 4) **Christians must endure with patience and perseverance**, Rom 8:25; 15:4; Heb 6:12, 15; 10:36; 12:1–3; Jas 5:7–8
 - To inherit the promises, Heb 6:12, 15; 10:36
 - Laying aside sin and anything that ensnares, Heb 12:1
 - Not becoming weary and discouraged in soul, Heb 12:3
 - Until Christ returns, Jas 5:7–8
- 5) **When persecuted for being a Christian**, Luke 21:19; 1 Cor 4:12; 2 Cor 1:6; 2 Thess 1:4; Heb 10:32; 1 Pet 2:20; Rev 1:9
- 6) **Wickedness and false teaching are not to be endured**, 2 Cor 11:4 (negative example); Rev 2:2

- 7) **God enables and provides for it**, Rom 5:3; Gal 5:22; Col 1:11; 2 Thess 3:5; Heb 12:2; Jas 1:3–4; 5:9–11; Rev 1:9
- Trials, trouble, and tribulation produce patience, Rom 5:3; Jas 1:3–4
 - Enabled by hope of eternity, Rom 8:25
 - A fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22
 - Learning from and being controlled by the Word, Rom 15:4; Col 1:11
 - Mutual prayers, 2 Thess 3:5
 - Look to Jesus who endured the cross and the hostility of sinners, Heb 12:2
 - Learning from past saints, Jas 5:9–11
 - Christ himself, Rev 1:9 – *“the patience of Jesus Christ”*

As I mentioned last week, it is interesting that God’s patience is always said to be toward people, never of circumstances.

This week’s survey of “patience” is predominately Christians’ life in a sin-cursed world which includes being patient with other believers.

There are a few NT passages, however, that do talk about God’s having to endure and persevere through circumstances, and they are all of the God-man, Jesus Christ (Heb 12:1–3 esp.).

Application

- Bro/sis who
 - (1) Grate you by their personalities
 - (2) Wrong you
 - (3) You strongly disagree with on some issues
- Family members
 - (1) Unbelievers
 - (2) Immature
 - (3) Grate, wrong, disagree
- The struggle to be patient is the struggle for Christ-likeness
- **Things that weaken—not strengthen—godly patience**—ignorance, prayerlessness, disobedience, self-gratification, and quitting
- The God of creation who saves from sin enables patience and perseverance

So...

- Pray for patience
- Work at patience
- Study to be patient