

“A More Excellent Way”

Lesson 2: Love Promotes Patience and Kindness within Families (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Intro:

1. Patience is something that often eludes us.
2. Paul offered prayers on behalf of those in Colosse to maintain patience. (Colossians 1:9-11)
3. We live in a time that does not promote patience.
4. The proper love for our physical and spiritual family members will require patience.
5. Kindness and patience often go hand in hand. Without patience people are rarely kind and when we are kind we typically will be patient.
6. It is a quality exemplified by our Creator. (Joel 2:13)

I. Parenting requires patience and kindness.

1. “Provoke not your children to wrath” (Ephesians 6:4)
2. Children obey your parents “for this is right.” (Ephesians 6:1)
 - a. Parents will not be perfect. (Hebrews 12:9-10)
 - b. Respect the serious obligation they have to raise and nurture their children.
3. Patience when disciplining our children.
 - a. Did I clearly define the rules? (Exodus 30:17-20)
 - b. Is this a gnat or a camel? (Matthew 23:24)
 - c. Do I recognize mercy and kindness as an educational tool? (Matthew 5:7)

II. Extended families (in-laws) require patience and kindness.

1. The history of Jacob and Laban. (Genesis 29 -31)
 - a. Relationship can quickly become adversarial.
 - b. Must be patient and kind as all involved grow into what God requires. (Genesis 2:24)
2. With the right amount of kindness and patience it can be a wonderful relationship.

a. Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 1:15-17)

b. Their relationship built upon love, patience, and kindness allowed for wisdom to be shared.
(Ruth 2:20-23)

III. The family of God will benefit from a love that promotes patience and kindness.

1. When we are leaving our past sins. (Acts 9:22-27)

2. When some are weak in faith. (Romans 14:1-4)

3. Many members, various talents, different levels of growth...one body. (Romans 12:4-10)

Conclusion:

1. We all would benefit from a greater level of patience and kindness.

2. Our earthly relationships are more rewarding and profitable.

3. We are able to avoid many hardships and difficulties within our spiritual family when we will express patience and kindness toward one another.