

HOPeBOX



True
love

EAGLES CHRISTIAN FAMILY CENTER

TRUE LOVE

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8 NLT)

INTRODUCTION: *God is love. When we speak about love, we don't refer to the feeling of love only, rather we speak of sacrificial love, patient love, love that forgives and covers the sins and the mistakes of others and seeks their wellbeing. What consists of true love?*

1. TRUE LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS. (1 Peter 4:8)

- King David wasn't a perfect man. In fact, he committed many mistakes: He lied, deceived, he stole another man's wife, he committed adultery, he even murdered a man to cover up his sin! But when King David committed those mistakes, he quickly admitted to them, and genuinely repented. He didn't always do the right thing, but he sought the Lord and wanted to do what was right. God called David a man according to His own heart. (*Psalms 51:1-4*)
- **How could God say that about a man like David?** Because it's more important to love God with all your heart than to be perfect. Do you love God with all your heart? Do you love those around you? If you do, that covers a multitude of sins.

2. TRUE LOVE LOVES FIRST. (1 John 4:10)

- God is love because He first loved us. How many of us are willing to give our children up in sacrifice for the salvation of a group of people?
- Surely the answer is "no" but God, out of love, gave His only Son so that we would be saved. (*John 3:16*)
- Just look around and realize how much He loves you, everything that exists on this earth was made for our benefit. (*Hebrews 2:6-7*)
- Don't wait to be loved, love first; don't wait for people to ask for forgiveness, forgive; don't wait to be served, serve others and respond to God's love by loving and serving Him.

3. TRUE LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL (Romans 5:8)

- God's love is not conditioned on what we do. Even though we are unfaithful, He remains faithful and offers us mercy and grace.
- Many people dare not to approach the Lord, because they think they are too sinful to deserve God's love; but if we repent, He is willing to give us the opportunity to have a relationship with Him and thus erase our sins. (*Isaiah 1:18*).

- This should be our love for those around us: Our parents, children, spouse, brothers in Christ, companions and friends. Love should not be based on what people do for us, but rather on a genuine love, which gives without expecting to receive anything in exchange.

4. **WHAT IS THE BEST DESCRIPTION OF LOVE? (1 Corinthians 13.4-7)**

- **One who truly loves doesn't have superiority complexes. (v.4)** That is to say, they don't they are better than others, they aren't proud, they developed patience, they are not envious, and they are kind.
- **One who loves is not selfish. (v.5)** The one who loves doesn't get angry for just anything, he is not rude, they don't spend their life remembering the bad things people have done to them.
- **They are not in agreement with injustice. (v.6)** True love rejoices when what is right and what is true is done.
- **They have the ability to forgive (v.7)**

We have failed God countless of times, and He has always endured our faults. His love has covered our sin; this is an example of true love that forgives everything. Let us also forgive those who have offended us.

CONCLUSION: *Nothing can take the place of love. Life is not about balanced schedules, achievements, or recognitions. Life is about love. Don't let the worries of life make you forget this, love and forgive. Respond to God's love by giving your life to Jesus today.*

SAVING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so that you may be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.*

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- What do you understand when it says that love covers a multitude of sins?
- How can you apply this towards someone who hurt you?
- Who do you need to show love to?

PRACTICE APPLICATION:

- Find a way to show daily love to your spouse and children, depending on their love languages.
- Think of a person at your job or school that you feel need love and do something for them: invite them for coffee, bring them a gift or give them words of affirmation for something good they are doing.
- Take a moment to remember all of what God has forgiven you for and thank Him for His love and mercy.

LOVE DOESN'T GET IRRITATED

*Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city.
(Proverbs 16:32 NLT)*

INTRODUCTION: *Being irritable means "being near the tip of a knife", meaning it's easy to prick yourself. People who are irritable are ready to react in an exaggerated way and logically that will cause many problems in work, ministry, and especially family relations. (the most important people in your life) But, if you walk under the influence of God's love, you will be a fountain of joy rather than an annoyance. Ask yourself this question: "Am I a calming breeze or an imminent storm?"*

1. TRUE LOVE IS SLOW TO GET OFFENDED AND FAST TO FORGIVE. (Psalm 103:8)

- Love is not angry, nor does it feel hurt unless there is a legitimate and just reason in God's eyes. A loving husband will remain calm and patient. He demonstrates mercy and controls his character.
- A loving wife is not overly sensitive and moody, rather she exercises emotional self-control. She chooses to be the flower between the thorns and respond well in difficult situations. Children maintain harmony in the home by being obedient and respecting their parents and siblings.

2. THERE ARE TWO KEY REASONS WHY PEOPLE BECOME IRRITABLE:

- **Stress.** Stress overwhelms and drains your energy. It weakens your health and invites you to be in a bad mood.
- **It can be produced through relational reasons:** hard discussions, division and bitterness.
- **Stress can be caused by excessiveness:** overworking exaggerating and over spending.
- **Deficiencies:** Not having enough rest, nutrition or exercise. Growing pressure can wear down our patience and our relationships.
- The Bible can help you avoid unhealthy stress. It teaches you to let love guide your relationships, so you don't have unnecessary discussions. **(Col. 3:12-14)**
- **Selfishness.** When you're irritable, the main problem is found in your heart. *Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks". (Matthew 12:34).*
- Some people are like lemons: When life squeezes them, their response is acidic. And others are more like peaches: When there's pressure, the result is sweet.
- Getting easily angered a hidden area of selfishness or insecurity.

3. SELFISHNESS HAS MASKS:

- **Lust** is the result of being ungrateful for what you have and choosing to covet something forbidden. When your heart is lustful, it will easily become frustrated and angry (**James 4:1-3**).
- **Bitterness.** The unresolved anger of a bitter person seeps when provoked (**Ephesians 4:31**).
- **Greed** for more money and possessions will frustrate you with unfulfilled desires (**1 Timothy 6:9-10**). Dissatisfaction will lead you to lash out at anyone who stands in your way.
- **Pride** makes you act tough to protect your ego and reputation.

4. SIGNS OF SELFISHNESS:

- When a husband or anyone puts his interests, desires and priorities before those of his family or people, it's a sign of selfishness.
- When a wife complains non-stop of the time and energy, she expends to meet her husband's needs, it's a sign of selfishness.
- Acts of generosity can be selfish if the motivation is to boast or receive a reward. If you do something good in order to dishonestly manipulate your husband, children, friends, co-workers, or church you remain selfish.
- Choosing to love others will make you say "no" to what you want, so you can say "yes" to other's needs. It

means placing your partner's happiness, and family above yours.

CONCLUSION: Love will lead you to forgive instead of holding a grudge. Love will lead you to be grateful rather than greedy. Love reminds you to prioritize family rather than sacrifice them for a work promotion. Love decreases your stress in every decision. ***Receive the love of Jesus who gave everything for you on the cross of calvary and receive him as Lord.***

SAVING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so that you may be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.*

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- How easily do you get irritated and offended?
- When something goes wrong, do you quickly take advantage of the situation, and express how hurt or frustrated you are?

PRACTICE APPLICATION:

- ▶ Identify whether the reason you are easily irritated is related to stress or selfishness, and then work in those areas.
- ▶ Ask the Holy Spirit for help in prayer, seek more of God and His Word so you can be filled with His love.

LOVE IS PATIENT

He who loves has patience in everything and is always kind. He who loves is not envious, nor does he believe himself more than anyone else. He's not proud. He is not rude or selfish. He's doesn't get mad for just anything. He doesn't spend his life remembering the bad things others have done to him. He applauds not the wicked, but those who speak with the truth. The one who loves is able to put up with everything, to believe everything, to expect everything, to endure everything. Only love lives forever. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 TLA)

INTRODUCTION:

We are born with a thirst for love that lasts a lifetime. Our heart desperately needs it just as our lungs need oxygen. Love changes our motivation to live. But how hard it is to demonstrate patient love in a world so full of stress and impatience. God wants to help us show patient love to the people that are around us. Let's view the significance of patience and see how to demonstrate it.

1. TO BE PATIENT IS TO RESPOND POSITIVELY AGAINST A NEGATIVE SITUATION. (Psalm 103:8)

- Patience makes us slow to get angry. We choose to keep our composure instead of easily getting angry. Instead of being impatient and demanding, love helps us to calm down and to begin showing mercy to those around us: We don't react with violence when a car gets in our way, or when someone in the home spills the milk, etc.
- Patience is the decision to control our feelings instead of allowing feelings to control us.
- Anger occurs when a strong desire for something is mixed with disappointment or pain. We don't get what we want, and we start to raise

the temperature inside of us. It is often an emotional reaction that arises from our own selfishness, foolishness or from our bad motivations.

2. TO BE PATIENT IS TO NOT RUSH INTO CONCLUSIONS.

- Patience makes us wise. It does not rush to draw conclusions, but listens to what the other person has to say: the spouse, the child, the companion, the employee, the friend, the boss and the disciple, etc.
- Patience helps you to give your spouse, your children, co-workers permission to be human. Understand that we all fail. When a mistake is made, decide to give *more time than deserved* to correct it.
- Example: The husband or wife should feel assured that if they leave the keys locked inside the car, they can find understanding instead of a degrading sermon, making them feel like a child. Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. **(James 1:19)**

3. TO BE PATIENT MEANS NOT KEEPING TRACK OF MISTAKES.

- Patience does not bring out the past with every new crisis. If the mistakes of the past have already been confessed, why revive them?
- Love speaks only of the present acts and does not make up its arguments by referring to each of the imperfections of the past. Couples, parents, disciples, leaders hurt each other to death with past mistakes.

4. IMPATIENCE PROVOKES NEGATIVE REACTIONS.

- When we react with impatience, negative actions are often unleashed, which in turn provokes negative reactions from those around us. For example: If the spouse or child does something that we believe is wrong (like forget an important date or they take their time coming out of the house when it's late for school) or worse, they don't do something we think they should have done (like take out the trash, iron clothes, have good grades). Feelings immediately turn negative against them with sharp words or the silent treatment starts being used hurtfully against them.
- Negative actions will have the tendency to provoke in the other person negative reactions in the same manner.

CONCLUSION: We should not permit *feelings and emotions to control our lives. We cannot verbally and constantly express our negative and impatient feelings and expect them to have positive effect in others. If we want to express our love with our behavior, we should maintain a patient behavior, even when things don't come out the way we expected them to. If you need help with impatience, ask God for help and let Him enter your heart.*

SAVING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so that you may be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.*

INTERACTION QUESTIONS:

- How can you demonstrate patience in such an impatient world? Is impatience healthy?
- Do you retaliate quickly or stay under control when things don't go as you expect?
- Do you consider yourself patient or impatient? And can you change that form of being?

PRACTICE APPLICATION:

- When something doesn't go the way, you planned or someone doesn't do things the way you wanted them to, make the effort not to react badly, just remember how patient God has been with you.



There is a place for you