

# “Love is Patient”

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV)

## Why is Patience so vital to LOVE?

- **Because we're all different.**
- **Because growth takes time.**
- **Because when I lose my temper,  
I always lose more than my temper.**

*But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.*

1 Timothy 1:16 (NLT)

## 5 Secrets of Patient People:

### 1. **Revise my expectations.**

*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.*

Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

**Patience = Allowing someone to be imperfect.**

### 2. **Resist the agents of anger.**

*Don't hang out with angry people;  
don't keep company with hotheads.  
Bad temper is contagious—  
don't get infected.*

Proverbs 22:24-25 (MSG)

### 3. **Respond only after listening.**

*Answering before listening is both stupid and rude.*

Proverbs 18:13 (MSG)

### 4. **Remember my identity.**

*So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"*

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

### 5. **Realize the power of patience.**

*Through patience a ruler can be persuaded,  
and a gentle tongue can break a bone.*

Proverbs 25:15 (NIV)

## SO WHAT?

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

**There will be a pop-quiz this week.**

## **Growth Group Questions**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. When and where do you tend to be the most impatient?
2. Are you more like a skunk (spray on everyone), or a turtle (retreat into your shell) when you are frustrated?
3. Re-read 1 Timothy 1:16. How has God had to be patient with you?
4. Re-read Proverbs 22:24-25. Tell of a time you lost your temper and lost “more than just your temper”?
5. Re-read Ephesians 4:2. Who in your life do you find it easy to be patient with? Why?
6. Which of the 5 secrets do you need to work on the most?

What tangible thing can you do to improve in that area?

7. Who is that one person who is sooo different from you that it challenges your patience on a regular basis?

How can you change the way you see them to increase your patience?