

Developing Patience

Colossians 3:12-14

Colossians 3:12-14 (NASB)

¹² “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”

On any given day, we may encounter frustrating people and situations. We may feel like lashing out, but God wants us to stay calm and be patient with everyone ([1 Thessalonians 5:14](#)). And in fact, there are a number of reasons we should develop patience:

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ “We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”

Our Calling. Though once alienated from the Lord, we have been made part of His family through Jesus’ shed blood. As God’s children, we’re called to live a life worthy of Him—one that is characterized by humility, gentleness, and patience ([Ephesians 4:1-3](#)).

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NASB)

¹ “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Biblical Teaching. Scripture tells us to be tolerant of one another, bearing each other’s burdens and responding with kindness ([Galatians 6:1-2](#)).

Galatians 6:1-2 (NASB)

¹ “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

² Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”

Jesus’ Example. The Lord demonstrated patience toward Peter’s impetuous actions, the crowd’s demands, and the leaders’ false accusations. We are to cultivate an attitude of patience and love towards others.

Healthy Relationships. Our impatience can hurt others and close off dialogue. Responding calmly gives room for the other person to confess wrongdoing, explain an attitude, and make changes.

God's Approval. The apostle Paul wrote that we are to be joyful in hope and patient in affliction ([Romans 12:12](#)).

[Romans 12:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.”

When we quietly endure our suffering, we find favor with the Lord ([1 Peter 2:20](#)).

[1 Peter 2:20 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁰“For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.”

The Holy Spirit is conforming us to Christ's image. As we cooperate with Him, He will develop in us the ability to persevere—without becoming agitated—when waiting or provoked. A calm demeanor in times of delay or adversity can be a powerful witness to the transforming work of God.