

Love is Patient

1 Corinthians 13 Series, Part 2

Pastor George Stahnke, 06/15/2003

Review: The more excellent way

1 Corinthians 12:31 (NIV) But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

Show: G1166 δεικνύω deiknuō [*dike-noo'-o*]

Thayer Definition: 1) to show, expose to the eyes, 2) metaphorically, 2a) to give evidence or proof of a thing, 2b) to show by words or teach

Way: G3598 ὁδός hodos [*hod-os'*]

Thayer Definition: 2) metaphorically, 2a) a course of conduct, 2b) a way (i.e. manner) of thinking, feeling, deciding

Paul is saying that he intends to submit verbal evidence in his teaching, proving that love (Agape) will effect our course of action by challenging our thinking and aiding us in our decision making process. This *love* is the mark of a mature Christian.

- Love is the central reality of God: **1 John 4:8 (NIV)** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- “*Agape*-love is a commitment to caring. Even more, *agape*-love is a commitment to act for the welfare of the person (s) loved.”
—Victor Bible Commentary on the New Testament

Love is patient

1 Corinthians 13:4a (NASB) Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

1 Cor 13:4 (AMP) Love endures long {and} is patient and kind; love never is envious {nor} boils over with jealousy, is not boastful {or} vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

Patient: G3114 μακροθυμέω makrothumeō [*mak-roth-oo-meh'-o*]

Thayer Definition: 1) to be of a long spirit, not to lose heart

1a) to persevere patiently and bravely in enduring misfortunes and troubles

1b) to be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others

1b1) to be mild and slow in avenging

1b2) to be longsuffering, slow to anger, slow to punish

Patience: An active endurance of opposition, not a passive resignation. *Patience* and *patient* are used to translate several Hebrew and Greek words. Patience is endurance, steadfastness,

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long-suffering, and forbearance.

—*Holman Bible Dictionary, Warren McWilliams*

makrothumēō [*mak-roth-oo-meh'-o*] is used here and in eight other places in the New Testament.

1 & 2. Patience & forgiveness—Matthew 18:26 & 18:29

Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV) Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.²⁶ “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient (μακροθυμέω) with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient (μακροθυμέω) with me, and I will pay you back.’³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.” (emphasis added)

3. Patience & prayer—Luke 18:7

Luke 18:1-8 (NASB) Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,² saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.³ “There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’⁴ “For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’”⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said⁷; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over (μακροθυμέω) them?⁸ “I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” (emphasis added)

4. Patience & people—1 Thessalonians 5:14

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (NIV) Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient (μακροθυμέω) with everyone.¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. (emphasis added)

Patience: “It can endure evil, injury, and provocation, without being filled with resentment, indignation, or revenge. It makes the mind firm, gives it power over the angry passions, and furnishes it with a persevering patience, that shall rather wait and wish for the reformation of a brother than fly out in resentment of his conduct. It will put up with many slights and neglects from the person it loves, and wait long to see the kindly effects of such patience on him.”

—*Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the New Testament*

5. Patience & promises—Hebrews 6:15

Hebrews 6:15 (NIV) And so after waiting patiently (μακροθυμέω), Abraham received what was promised. (emphasis added)

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6 & 7. *Patience & suffering*- James 5:7-8

James 5:7 (NIV) Be patient (μακροθυμέω), then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient (μακροθυμέω) and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!¹⁰Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. (emphasis added)

8. *Patience & God*- 2 Peter 3:9

2 Peter 3:8 (NIV) But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient (μακροθυμέω) with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (emphasis added)

Next we will look at agape love expressed by kindness.