

LOVE LIKE GOD

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Chapter One — *Love Is Patient* (1 Corinthians 13:4)

“Love is patient, love is kind...” — 1 Corinthians 13:4

Big Idea

Patience is not optional in Christian love—it is foundational.

When the Apostle Paul begins his definition of love, he starts with patience because genuine love always takes the long view. Biblical patience is not passive waiting; it is active endurance. It is choosing restraint over reaction, grace over frustration, and people over personal agendas.

The Greek word translated *patient* carries the idea of having a *long fuse*—delaying anger, absorbing inconvenience, and giving others time and space to grow. Love that is patient endures personal wrongs without retaliation and continues to care even when relationships feel costly.

God Himself models this kind of love. Throughout Scripture, we see His steady patience with imperfect people. Jesus embodied this patience with His disciples and with all of us. When we reflect on how patiently God walks with us, it both humbles us and empowers us to extend that same grace to others.

Patient love shows up in everyday life—at home, in friendships, in church, and at work. It means shifting the focus from *my timeline* to *their needs*. It means choosing understanding over irritation and restoration over resentment.

Patience is not weakness. It is strength under control. And it is the first visible evidence of true love.

Practical Takeaways

- Patient love gives people room to change.
- Patient love absorbs inconvenience without lashing out.
- Patient love values relationships more than schedules.
- Patient love reflects the heart of Christ.

Growing in patience often begins with:

- Recognizing what triggers our impatience
- Pausing to pray before reacting
- Celebrating small steps of progress
- Remembering how patient God has been with us

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the causes of our losing patience with others?
2. In what ways have you experienced patience from someone else?
3. How would you describe God's patience with all of us? (See: 2 Peter 3:9)
4. What are some ways you can increase your own capacity for patience
5. Think of a recent situation where you felt rushed or frustrated. How might choosing patience have changed the outcome?
6. Who is one person in your life right now that God may be inviting you to love more patiently—and what would that look like in practical terms this week?