



Maintaining True Community: Be Patient

Greg Wendschlag

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"Love is patient...it is not easily angered...it always perseveres." 1 Cor. 13:4, 5, 7

- Patience: putting up with other people. "It takes a long time to boil."
- Easily angered: not easily provoked.
- Persevere: patience over a long period.

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." Eccl. 7:8

Why do we need patience to maintain community?

- Because we are all different and our differences create misunderstandings.
- Because we are all broken, and our brokenness causes us to self-protect and self-promote.

"Be patient with everyone." 1 Thess. 5:14

How can I become more patient?

1. Learn by listening.

"He who answers before listening – that is his folly and his shame." Prov. 18:13

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Jms. 1:19

2. Change your expectations.

"None of you should think only of his own affairs. Consider other's interests also. Let your attitude toward life be that of Jesus Christ...(He) made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." Phil. 2:4-5

3. Make allowances for each other.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Eph. 4:2

"A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense." Prov. 19:11

4. Remember God's patience with you.

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3:9