

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## ***Between Now & Then***

Francis Shaeffer asked, in response to Christ's sacrifice for us,

- ***"How should we then live?"***

I was asked once, "Will there be irritating people in heaven?"

- *I don't think so. Neither will we be easily irritated.*
- *Yet, how do we deal with difficult people situations now?*

We are commanded to **love**, and called to **peace**...

- *And we are accountable to transact **forgiveness & patience**...*
- *For the benefit of both others and ourselves.*
- *I think we must **deliberately** embrace these two*
- *Both can be very challenging*

Forgiveness is **of no use** or value until we've been wronged

- *It needs to **reside in abundance** within us before being needed*
- *One of the eternally valuable **heavenly treasures** we store up*
- ***Received from Christ** in inexhaustible, overflowing supply*

Forgiveness relinquishes our **right to require** payment for wrongs suffered

In **Genesis 50:19-20** Joseph said to his brothers, "Am I in the place of God? You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about as it is today"

We don't occupy God's place...

- ***We pass along what He gives us***

We must often **occupy His patience** to deflect His place of judgement

- *We require nothing of anyone else **Now!***

NKJV, Patience = To patiently endure

- *If it doesn't involve enduring, **it may not be patience***
- *Patience often **takes** time...*
- *When we would prefer to not give it*

The other NT word translated as patience means...

- *To **hopefully** endure (C E w/P)*
- *Hope & Patience both include endurance*

In **Luke 21:8-19** Jesus is answering His disciple's questions about what it will be like before His return.

**Vs. 19**, "By your patience **possess your souls**."

- *The fruit of the Spirit includes both **patience & self-control** (Gal. 5:22-23)*

I was reminded this week that the **I Corinthians 13:4-8** attributes of love identify patience first.

**“Love is patient**, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures all things**. Love never fails.”

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*By tying patience to love, God reminds us that patience is **not only about ourselves***

- **Love only lives in relationship**
- .....

**How patient has God been with you?**

- *Do you just receive it from Him for your benefit?*
  - *Our do you possess it **for distribution in His behalf**?*
  - *Real growth takes time. It's often a slow process*
- .....

*Moses moved Israel at a pace **the slowest who were willing** could keep up with.*

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**II Timothy 2:24**, The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, skillful in teaching, **patient when wronged**

- *Loving patience can be **costly**... and **valuable***
- .....

**Matthew 13:45-46**, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, **went and sold all that he had and bought it.**”

- *How much is this one worth to you?*
- .....

**James 1:4**, But let (hopeful) patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

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**James 5:7-8**, Therefore **be patient**, brethren, **until the coming of the Lord**. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

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*Will we need patience in heaven?*

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**Psalm 130:5-6**, I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord

**more than those who watch for the morning**—Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

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**Song of Solomon 6:10**,

Who is she **who looks forth as the morning**, (Optimistic)

**Fair** as the moon, (Beautiful)

**Clear** as the sun, (Pure)

**Awesome** as an army with banners? (Powerful)

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**Who is she** – Optimistic, Beautiful, Pure & Powerful?

- *The Bride of Christ – **The Church***
- *We have no higher calling*