

Love is...
Patient & Kind
January 10, 2021

Everything – love = nothing.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to [the flames], but do not have love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

Journey's whole mission statement as a church is to make disciples of Jesus that love God, love people and serve the world.

If you had one word to describe Jesus, what would be that word? “Relaxed”—Dallas Willard

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29)

Jesus passed through the midst of the crowd. (Luke 4:30)

How foolish you are and how slow to believe. (Luke 24:25)

Love is patient... (1 Corinthians 13:4)

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... (Galatians 5:22-23)

“Patience is the ability to dwell gladly in the present moment when we would prefer not to.”—John Ortberg

“Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. Yet it is the law of all progress that is made by passing through some stages of instability and that may take a very long time. And so, I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow. Let them shape themselves without undue haste. Do not try to force them on as though you could be today what time—that is to say, grace—and circumstances—acting on your own good will---will make you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new Spirit gradually forming in you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete. Above all, trust in the slow work of God, our loving vine-dresser. Amen.” –Teilhard de Chardin

To produce patience, you need two things: **an irritant and time**, and God will give you time, and God will give you an irritant.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
(1 Corinthians 13:4)

*Is there anyone else in the house of Saul to whom I can show **kindness** for Jonathan's sake?*
(2 Samuel 9:3)

The question loving people ask is, "Who can I show kindness to?"

1st practice is "Slowing."

Make love your aim. (1 Corinthians 14:1)

2nd practice is "Noticing."

Relaxed people look. Hurried people *overlook*.

Don't miss it. Slow down. Notice what's going on around you.

Love is patient. Love is kind. (1 Corinthians 13:4)