
DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, SMALL GROUPS

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share

[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today’s text:

Date: 10/3/2021 – “Love is Patient” (1 Corinthians 13:4a)

1. Our church purpose statement says we exist by God’s grace and for God’s glory as the ultimate aim in all we do? Why is this important to start with as we pursue love to others (14:1a, see 10:31, 15:10, 16:14)?
2. How does 1 Corinthians 13:3 caution us in defining love as only a choice of the will, or just an action of sacrifice or self-giving? How might this caution us as we do what looks like a very loving act? Love isn’t mere emotion, but is God only interested in actions, or is He also concerned with emotions / affections?
3. How does the phrase “love is patient” contrast with how “love” is used in English for “lovers” or “making love” outside of marriage? How does v. 4 help redefine love before marriage and in marriage?
4. What were some ways the Corinthians were being impatient? What are ways we Californians can be? How does Paul framing patience with love help us (compare also Ephesians 4:2, Galatians 5:22)?
5. “Patient” in the Greek is not a passive adjective, but a present tense active verb (ex: waits patiently). How does that (or the translation “longsuffering”) help you think about pursuing patient love in action?
6. How should meditating on the patience of God in Christ help you to be patient with others?
7. What other truths about God can we remember to help us the next time we’re tempted to impatience?