



Part 4 - Patience: The Habit That Assumes the Best
Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:1-5

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*Galatians 5:22-23 "But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit (results) in us: love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control." (NLT)*

*John 15:1-2; 5 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he **prunes** so that it will be even more fruitful. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in Me and I in him, he will bear **much fruit**; apart from Me you can do nothing." (NIV)*

I. WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT THAT WE DEVELOP PATIENCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS?

A. Every person is **different**.

B. Perception doesn't always mean **reality**.

*1 Corinthians 2:11 "No one can really know what anyone else is **thinking** or what he is really like, except that person himself."*

Misconception No. 1 - Words mean the **same thing** to everyone.

Misconception No. 2 - There is only one **right way** to see things, and it is my way.

Misconception No. 3 - I know other people's **real motives**.

C. Patience will re-establish **control** in a negative situation.

1. *Colossians 3:12-13 "Since God chose you to be the holy people whom He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy,*

*kindness, humility, gentleness, and **patience**. ¹³You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you."*

2. *Proverbs 15:1 "A soft answer turns away wrath."*
3. *Ecclesiastes 7:8-9 "Finishing is better than starting! Patience is better than pride! ⁹ Don't be quick-tempered--that is being foolish."*
4. The most **powerful** person in the room is the one who is patient.
5. *Proverbs 15:18 "A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel."*

II. WHAT DOES PATIENCE LOOK LIKE?

A. Patience assumes the **best** about another person even if there isn't enough evidence to do so.

1. *Ephesians 4:1-2 "Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Be humble and gentle. Be **patient** with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."*
2. *Philippians 4:8 "Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others." (paraphrase)*

B. Patience doesn't just talk, it **listens**.

1. *Proverbs 19:11 "A man's wisdom gives him patience."*
2. *Proverbs 18:13 "**Listen** before you answer. If you don't you are being both foolish and insulting."*

C. Patience treats others **the way** we want to be treated.

Luke 6:31 "Do unto others the way you would want them to do unto you."

D. Be patient with **yourself** as you are growing in your patience.

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Notes:
