



Love Does

Part 2 - Love Is Patient and Kind

Discussion Guide

It is extremely difficult to completely understand love. We know we should exhibit love. We even know Jesus commanded love. But how do we love well? Paul helps define what love is by explaining what it does. This week, we focus on patience and kindness as examples of true love.

Jump Start

Leader: This section is designed to get discussions started, examine God's truth, and apply it to our week.

1. What is a specific time when your patience was most tested? Is this a recurring situation?
2. **Read [1 Corinthians 13:4 and Jeremiah 31:3](#)**. Can you have patience and kindness available for others if you are not receiving patience and kindness from others? Are you patient and kind to yourself? How do we sense and receive the patience and kindness that God has towards us?
3. **Read [Proverbs 21:21](#)**. What is the difference between being kind and pursuing kindness? In what ways have you pursued kindness? In what areas have you stopped trying? What are the benefits God promises if we pursue righteousness and kindness?
4. **Read [Matthew 9:27-38, Mark 1:40-41, Luke 7:12-15, and Luke 4:16-19](#)**. How do we specifically see kindness in these stories? Patience? Can you think of any other instances where Jesus showed extreme kindness or patience? What is compassion and how does it tie into patience and kindness? What was Jesus' overarching mission before the cross?
5. Final Thought: **Read [Luke 6:34-36, Romans 12:19-21, and Romans 5:10](#)**. What does it look like to love your "frenemies" or enemies? Does it mean you have to trust them or confide in them? How are you at loving your frenemies/enemies, specifically in the areas of patience and kindness? What practical ways can you love your enemies this week? What fuels your ability to love supernaturally?

Deeper

Leader: This section is designed for further use in your Life Group or for personal study. These can also be used as discussion points and ways to stay connected with your group throughout the week.

Last week, we dove deeper on the meaning of *agape* love, a love that mirrors the sacrificial love of God for His creation. The second most common type of love we see in the Bible is expressed by the Greek words "*phileo*" or "*philos*." In the positive usage of the word, this love describes kindness, mercy, goodness, and giving guidance to others. It is a love primarily shared between friends (though it can also be in your relationship with kids or spouse). Here are some verses that specifically use *phileo/philos*.

6. [**John 11:3, 35-36**](#): What is empathy? Considering that He knew all things, and that Lazarus would live again, why did Jesus still weep? Can you love without empathy? For whom do you need to have more empathy?

7. [**Matthew 10:34-39**](#). How does this Bible verse seem contradictory when taken out of context? With a focus on verse 37, what does this passage mean? Where have you seen yourself (or others) love a family member or friend more than God? Why does Jesus warn against this so harshly?

8. [**Matthew 6:5 and Luke 20:46**](#). In this passage, we see *philos* also used in a negative context. It is used to describe a focus on / love for worldly things or passions. Why does Jesus take such issue with the things these people "loved" to do? If you do the right things for the wrong reasons or for attention, how does God view that? When have you caught yourself being more focused on being praised for doing the right thing than simply being obedient to God? How does this use of the word *philos* help better shape and understand the Matthew 10 passage?

9. Just when you thought this was easy to understand: **read [John 5:20](#)**. This is also *philos*, from God toward Jesus! How does it feel different from the other verses using this word? How does it still accurately tie in?