

## Community Group Discussion Questions

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### “The Fruit of Patience”

### Galatians 5:22-23, 1 John 3:11-18

**Sermon Series Title:** “The Fruit of the Spirit”

**Sermon Series Summary:** In Christ, we have received new hearts and new life. With this new life, God bears the Fruit of the Spirit. It’s not something we do. It’s something that God grows within us through His Spirit.

**Setting:** 1 John is one of the letters from the apostle, John. In this letter, we see themes from His Gospel as he talks repeatedly about the love of God and the love for neighbor.

**Summary:** We are called to be patient as we wait on God and trust in His will. Patience is grown in hardship, and it is the will of God for us to grow in our patience. We are able to be patient with God and others, because Jesus was first patient with us, bearing our sins on the cross.

**Central Truth:** *“Be patient as God was first patient with us first in Christ.”*

#### **Sermon Points:**

1. What Patience Is Not
2. What Patience Is
3. How We Get It

#### **Opening Question**

1. Have you ever encountered a patient person? Describe him/her.

*(Answers may vary.)*

***Patience is the fourth fruit that is listed in Galatians 5. We will take a look at 1 John 3 to see the opposite of patience in Cain and the epitome of patience in Jesus.***

#### **Read 1 John 3:11-18**

2. What is the difference between counterfeit patience and true patience?

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*(Counterfeit patience is cynicism and apathy. It can also be shown through stoicism- a disconnect between your feelings and the hardship you are enduring. Patience is not a suppression of your feelings that will lead to resentment, bitterness, hardness, and distance between God/neighbor and yourself. Just because you're holding in your temper doesn't mean you're a patient person. Lastly, patience does not belittle the injustice and wrong done to you. It doesn't belittle pain and grief.*

*Patience is not never feeling angry. Patience is feeling angry and knowing how to deal with it. It's possible for us to be angry and not sin (Eph 4:26). Also, lamenting and confessing are welcome before the Lord as shown in the psalms. Patience is feeling the weight of the grief, injustice, sorrow, and pain, and then bringing it before the Lord. Patience does not respond in sin. Patience in waiting on the Lord is a surrender to the notion that we know what's best for us.*

*Impatience dehumanizes and holds resentment. Patience humanizes, places worth in a person and in God, and gives up the right for payment. They sacrifice emotionally and physically to gain a brother/sister and to trust in the Lord.)*

### 3. Why is it so hard for us to be patient?

*(Answers may vary.*

*Waiting on the Lord is difficult, because we think we know what is best for ourselves. We don't want to surrender control in obtaining our heart's desires.*

*Being patient with others is extremely difficult, because they don't follow our plans. A lot of times, they ruin them. Also, it's hard for us to be patient with others, because usually there is an injustice or wound that has been inflicted. There is pain and grief that need to be addressed. And part of the way we respond to that pain and grief is to be impatient.)*

### 4. How can we grow in our patience?

*(Like the other fruit, patience is not found inside of us. It's in our sinful nature to respond sinfully. We demand justice. We want to stay in control to pursue our idols. But God in His grace by His Spirit grows the fruit of patience inside of us. He grows patience inside of us by showing us His patience for us. God was long-suffering in Jesus Christ.*

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*Jesus took our shame, sin, and judgment. It cost him physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. And yet, He endured it all so that He can gain us.)*

***Final Thoughts:*** *Patience is not just a virtue. It's part of the fruit that God grows within us. It's not a suppression of feelings or a belittling of injustice. It's a surrender, confessing that we don't know what's best for us and we are not in control. It's a feeling of the hurt and pain but bringing it before the Lord and resting there. It's a surrender of rights at a cost, so that we can gain a brother/sister and trust in the Lord.*