

102019 final “If the world will not listen to your words, make them listen to your lives.” The Church, serves as repairers of the breach, that which divides and separates us...from God , ourselves and eachother...

As people of faith navigate an era that once again scorns and misunderstands us, there is a need to look beyond each of our own cultural and ecclesial comfort zones for instruction, sustenance and relationship with those whose lives are surrendered to the same Source of Life and Love, yet are faced with different pains, raised in different cultures and communities ...Pauls admonition is If you want entry to a hurting if skeptical world, care for it, don't try to rule it.

starting with those in the family of God...

Therefore I must be intentional at working through the impact of my attitude and actions on my relationships. “Whether you know it or not, or admit or not, you're being watched. And the things you model - - powerfully communicate your convictions about right or wrong, about morality and immorality. If you want to pass on Biblical values to others, you must model these values in your own life.”

- **Here is the deal one cannot be Spiritually mature ...strong in the Lord while being emotionally immature...prideful and selfish in our relationships...**
- **Spiritual maturity has to do with navigating life on earth by heavenly principles.. Emotional maturity has to do with my ability to implement those principles in my relationships**
- **So...I must be intentional at working through the impact of my attitude and actions on my relationships.** “Whether you know it or not, or admit or not, you're being watched. And the things you model - - powerfully communicate your convictions about right or wrong, about morality and immorality.
- **If you want to pass on Biblical values to others, you must model these values in your own life.”**

So Paul is talking about this kind of spiritual and emotional maturity....Both the strong believer and the weak believer need to grow.

Romans 15:1 *We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves.* ² *We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.*

- **People are either relegated to define themselves in relation to other people or in relation to the Divine.**
- **Paul classified himself with the strong saints as he dealt with a basic problem—maturity and immaturity** You know what a mature person knows? they know they don't have to pretend to need Grace! which is exactly what they need to give the sensitive person...
- **the strong believer needs to remember that the sensitive believer struggles with issues the strong believer has settled...and the strong must be considerate of the journey the sensitive one is on...**
- **Emotional maturity, Spiritual maturity then, appears to lie in a recognition of others not as projections of our own maturity but as independent beings navigating their own spiritual journey to maturity.**
- **The strong believer needs to grow in patience; the weak believer needs to grow in knowledge.**
- **So long as a brother is weak in the faith, we must lovingly deal with him in his immaturity. But if we really love him, we will help him to grow. It is wrong for a Christian to remain immature, having a weak conscience.**
- **Paul does not mean being a “man-pleaser.” Such a person may want to please his neighbor, but not for his neighbor’s good.**
- **True Christian love is not selfish; rather, it is even willing to carry the younger Christians, to help them along in their spiritual development. **We do not endure them. We encourage them** You are emotionally/spiritually strong...When those close to you would say that you are not easily offended or hurt (Matt. 5:39–42, 1 Cor. 13:5). 1234 17.**
- **You are emotionally strong...I am consistently open to hearing and applying**

constructive criticism and feedback that others might have for me (Prov. 10:17; 17:10; 25:12)

- You are emotionally/spiritually strong..if you are regularly able to enter into other people's world and feelings, connecting deeply with them and taking time to imagine what it feels like to live in their shoes (John 1:1–14; 2 Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:3–5). 1234 32.
- You are emotionally/spiritually strong ...when People close to you would describe describe you as slow to speak, quick to listen, and good at seeing things from their perspective (James 1:19–20).
- You are emotionally/spiritually strong ... when you are frequently able to distinguish the difference between when to help carry someone else's burden (Gal 6:2) and when to let it go so they can carry their own burden (Gal. 6:5).
- You are emotionally/spiritually strong..when you are careful that your compassion does not allow your neighbor to be confirmed in their weakness...but you speak that which challenges them to grow or re-think thier position...build them up

*****In a nutshell A person's emotional and spiritual maturity is revealed by sacrifice. which is the opposite of Pride...Just as loving parents make sacrifices for their children, so the mature believer sacrifices to help younger Christians grow in the faith...this is humility

- The opposite of emotional/spiritual maturity is to be as Paul wrote..... sensitive not sensitive as in I am not hard hearted...or I care about people...it has the idea of ...being easily offended... The "easily offended" choke off the giving of the benefit of the doubt. It denies human imperfection, and expects people to abide by mechanical and controlled actions for approval.
- And Allowing offense to stay in your heart can stop your growth in Christ.

this is really a pride issue.. a prideful person is an emotionally/ spiritually immature person....they are not teachable... Proverbs 13:10 Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

You see the problem with Pride is it always thinks short term...how I look ...how I feel...And it is always easily offended... and quite demanding...

- **Pride is a tangled sin, not only is it a lack of humility and sacrifice... it is a lack of love...** Pride is impressed with the superficial...love with the real...
- Pride writes off people when offended...love gives people the benefit of the doubt...Pride looks for the negative...love looks for the positive....Pride destroys relationships...love builds relationships
- **Pride focus on what people are doing wrong...love looks for what people are doing right...Pride makes others feel small...love makes others feel important**
- **Pride disrespects...love respects...Pride reveals insecurity ...love reveals confidence...**Pride blinds one to opportunities...love sees opportunities...
- Pride resists learning...Love embraces learning...Pride is hard hearted ...love is soft hearted...
- Pride gives up quickly...love endures long...Pride fears people...love embraces people...knowing that allowing offenses to stay in your heart will stop your growth in Christ

The church cannot be ruled by the whims of the weak. and neither can healthy relationships “A genuine concern for the weak will mean an attempt to make them strong by leading them out of their irrational scruples so that they, too, can be strong.” (Morris)

Jesus our example...

³ For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, “The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me.”

- **He was willing to die in our stead...the guiltless for the guilty...but also loved us and cares for us in our sin and about our lives...at great cost to himself...**
- **this requires Participation!** Jesus participates in the lives of those he serves...to the degree that they identify with each other...
- **handling offense is a MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE..When you know there will be troubles and trials and battles..and you expect them...you are half way to inner peace...you are the rest of the way to inner peace when you know that Jesus has overcome them all...before they even come to you..**

- **Jesus endured the insults of serving others because he was serving God... it is the cost of serving God is to serve others...**

Psalm 69:7 For I endure insults for your sake; humiliation is written all over my face.

⁸ Even my own brothers pretend they don't know me; they treat me like a stranger

⁹ Passion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. ¹⁰ When I weep and fast, they scoff at me. ¹¹ When I dress in burlap to show sorrow, they make fun of me. ¹² I am the favorite topic of town gossip, and all the drunks sing about me. ¹³ But I keep praying to you, LORD, hoping this time you will show me favor. In your unfailing love, O God,

- **Jesus endured the insults of serving others because he was serving God... it is the cost of serving God is to serve others...**
- **these things were written long ago to help us in this...**

*Romans 15:⁴ Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we **wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.***

Not waiting on God is a sign of pride and immaturity... know this there is a difference between God's timetable and ours?

- **We think in terms of minutes, hours, and days, but God works in terms of years.**
- **when we feel God is distant or slow...it has to do with his timing and our timing...never His presence...for he is closest when we are in trouble..**
- **And We must confess that we sometimes get impatient with younger Christians, just as parents become impatient with their children.**
- **But the Word of God can give us the "patience and encouragement" that we need.**
- **Our lives change and grow in proportion to our connection in committed relationships with other people.....Little connection...little growth.....Much connection ...Much Growth**
- **And Do you know what was happening during this time? God is building maturity into us ...**

- Just as it takes years to grow a sturdy oak tree, so it takes years to build the godly character qualities needed to be an effective servant of the Lord and a blessing to others...
- **We have instant everything in our society, but there is no instant patience**
- **patience is developed by regular, often long term interaction...ie parent child...God to you..and we need encouragement to see it through...because we burn out!**
- **Our faith is not a constant action. It is mobile. It vacillates. We move from faith to faith, and in between we may have periods of doubt when we cry, "Lord, I believe, help Thou my unbelief."**

⁵ *May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.* ⁶ *Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

A Christian can have joy in his heart while there is still spiritual depression in his head. The joy that we have sustains us through these dark nights and is not quenched by spiritual depression. The joy of the Christian is one that survives all downturns in life.

- **May God:** The fact that Paul puts these words into the form of a prayer demonstrates that he recognizes that this is a work that the Holy Spirit must do inside us.
- **The God of patience gives patience:** Our God is a God of patience. We are often in such a hurry and God often seems to work too slowly for us.
- **Often the purposes of God seem to be delayed but they always are fulfilled.**
- **God's delays are not His denials, and He has a loving purpose in every delay.**
- **We love God's patience with us....we need his patience with His people –**
- **Yet we often resent God's patience with His *plan* –for us... we think He should hurry up. Nevertheless, God is patient both with His people and in His plan.**

The purpose? That you may through patience live in harmony: The goal is to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We accomplish that goal by having one mind and one mouth – by unity in our thinking and speech.

However ...we sometimes make two grievous yet common errors in being Patient with people

a. Becoming Lazy in our Patience and Faith:

Hebrews 6:12 We do not want you to become **lazy**, but to imitate those who through **faith** and **patience** inherit what has been promised.

- It is interesting that we can become lazy in patience...
- Lazy means idle. Lethargic, languid...it is the opposite of energetic...
- He lost the energy to wait on God...Do you know waiting and patience takes energy...

Think of how much energy a child must exercise to wait patiently

It takes energy to wait in line....at the store, movies, pretty much any line...

- Wait 5 minutes...seems like an eternity to us...I mean a child...
- You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance. Also...Patience is a fruit of the Spirit...If He is in us Patience will be produced. And that only comes by taking us through trials.....

Now God is a God of purposeful goals..so moving toward the goal is a priority... or going in the right direction... how quickly the goal is achieved is not the most important thing... nor is it the most important component...the destination is...so the direction is the priority! ...and regards to time...God is never late nor early nor in a hurry...

Romans 15:7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Therefore accept each another: Instead of letting these issues about disputable things divide Christians (especially making a division between Jew and Gentile), we should receive one another just as Christ received us – in the terms of pure grace, knowing yet bearing with our faults.

Just as Christ has accepted you: “Christ did not accept us because we were perfect, because he could see no fault in us, or because he hoped to gain our great abilities. Ah, no! **But, in love covered our faults, and seeking our good, he welcomed us to his heart; so, in the same way, and with the same purpose, let us receive one another.”**

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end

However ...we sometimes make two grievous yet common errors in being Patient with people

b. Becoming Lazy in our Patience and Faith:

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[2 Peter 3:8](#) *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord **a** day is like **a** thousand years, and **a** thousand years are like **a** day.*

- **!**
- **If you consider yourself strong in comparison to your brother, use your strength to serve your brothers in Christ – instead of using your “strength”**

just to please yourself.

- **So what does emotional/spiritual strength look like?**