

A STUDY ON PATIENCE

(Col 1:11) strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

Endurance is remaining faithful under difficult circumstances

Patience is remaining faithful with difficult people & relationships

Endurance (**hupomone**) & patience (**makrothumia**) occur together or in the same context in Col. 1:11; 2 Cor. 6:4,6; 2 Tim. 3:10; James 5:10,11

The difference of meaning is best seen in their opposites. While **ὕπομονή** is the temper which does not easily succumb under suffering, **μακροθυμία** is the self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong. The one is opposed to cowardice or despondency, the other to wrath or revenge (Prov. 15:18; 16:32) .

Prov 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

Patience - makrothumia

patience, forbearance, long-suffering, slowness in avenging wrongs, Rom. 2:4; 9:22; 2 Cor. 6:6; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 1:16, 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 3:15;

a. Patience is a manifestation of the essence of God.

Rom 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

- Kindness, forbearance & patience of God

1 Tim 1:16 And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

- God's patience waiting us to believe for salvation

b. Enabling bel's to think patience is part of the ministry of GHS – fruit

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Fruit is the result of the spiritual processing & growth

c. Patience is an aspect of the worthy Christian relating.

Ephesians 4:1-2 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,

- Worthy – equal in value – live your life in manner equal to your calling

d. Helping other bel's grow must be done with patience

2 Tim 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

e. Patience is just one manifestation of the many aspects of agape love.

Col 3:12-14 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Ch 3 – Practical Life in Christ

3:1-4 – Practice based on position

3:5-8 – Put to death – Take off old man

3:9-11 – Stop pretending – Take off OM/Put on NM (positional)

3:12-17 – NM - Multifaceted Manifestations of Unconditional Love (UL)

3:12 – Therefore – the argument has been made that our position in the supreme Person of the universe has empowered us and obligated us to take off the old way. For those who decide to take off (erase) their old beliefs/behaviors, there is the capacity to replace & embrace the beliefs/behaviors of NM in Christ.

3:12 – as chosen ones of God – **eklektos** – the ones picked out

- God picked you to live with Him forever – we did not choose God, He chose us
- Election in Christ – God chooses all who trust in Christ Eph 1:4 – chosen in Him

3:12 – holy – **hagios** – made +R in Christ – Col 1:12 – having made us fit, worthy

- At point of salvation, God made us worthy to live with Him forever
- We are not required nor are we even able to make ourselves worthy of God
- Imputed +R → eternal worthiness eliminates all human works - Grace

3:12 – beloved – PfPPtc **agapao** – having been loved in the past resulting in a complete state of being permanently, eternally loved by God

- Loved in eternity past; brought into a perfect state of love today & forever
- Who are you? God's beloved, Who you are no longer: rejected, abandoned, alone, unwanted, hopeless
- Paul uses a verb to describe the action of God loving you - emphasis

Specifics about who we are in Christ - how it changes our identity and capacities

3:12 - Put on AMImp **enduo** – clothe your soul, believe & adopt an idea

Mt 6:25 – literal clothing; Lk 24:49 – GHS; Rom 13:12 – armor of light; Gal 3:27 B/HS i.e. put on Christ;

Eph 6:11-14 – armor of God; Eph 4:24, Col 3:10 – new man

- Col 3:5-9a take off the old man and his practices – reject old beliefs/behaviors
- Col 3:9b-17 put on new man and his practices – adopt new beliefs/behaviors

Virtues:

- Compassion feeling of mercy and concern for the suffering of others
- Kindness chrestotes – useful, helpful, benevolent,
- Humility tapeinaphrosune – realistic sense of one's helplessness & unworthiness
- Meekness praus – gentle, unassuming, considerate, respectful
- Patient makrothumia – refusal to retaliate in the face of provocation

3:13 – forbearing one another - anecho – firm, unmoving, tolerant of others,

3:13 – Forgiving one another – charizomai – to generously give grace = graced out

3:13 - If (3cc) anyone has a complaint

3:13 – just as the Lord forgave (graced) you – He indeed had a complaint

3:14 – over all these – love – agape – mind-set that edifies unconditionally

3:14 – bond of completeness – chain that ties all the virtues together

- Love is the mind-set that pulls all virtue into a system for application

1. Our position in the pre-eminent Christ (Ch 1) has given us access to share all of who He is & made powerful by His unlimited power to change our hearts.

Vs 9-11 – Position – taken off OM – put on NM – the commands to stop using specific behaviors & to adopt others is based on our position in Christ.

2. Having commanded & encouraged believers to adopt Christian virtues, he explains that all these virtues are expressions of agape love.

Vs14 over all of these (virtues), put on agape love – all virtues are under the umbrella of unconditional love – manifestations of UL.

Vs14 bond of completeness - chain that ties all the virtues together

- Love is the mind-set that pulls all virtue into a system for application

3. Agape love (UL) is a fixed, attitude, position & mind-set that is committed to always benefit all others spiritually, never causing harm.

Lk 10:27 – Agape Love the Lord with all heart, soul, strength, mind & neighbor

Jn 21 Jesus asks Peter: do you agape me? Are you totally committed to me?

Lord you know that I phileo you! You know that love you as my dear friend

- - Agape – fixed decision, committed to spiritually edify others; husband-wife
 - Agape is based on grace & is unconditional – needs nothing in return

Philos – friendship, companionship, compatibility love – conditional love (CL)

4. The capacity for selfless UL must be developed by spiritual growth, accepting God's provision for your own needs, enabling you to lay aside selfishness

- At salvation, we are given everything we need to fill the emptiness in us

Rom 5:5 all of God's love has been completely poured out into our hearts

- Spiritual growth enables us to recognize & embrace God's provision of love to fill our hearts with His love until we are overflowing with agape to others

5. The committed mind-set of UL is the unifying belief that pulls all the virtues into a system & way of relating to others and the behavioral factor that creates unity in the body of Christ.

- Over all these virtues put love; UL is the umbrella under which they all work
- UL is focused on spiritual needs of others, alert to specific virtue needed
- If the person provokes you, you refuse to retaliate (makrothumia) so that you can continue the relationship so that you can minister to them.
- If the person needs to be admonished to get moving, you can challenge them with a kind, loving demeanor.
- In maturity, UL pulls every virtuous relational characteristic (fruits/Spirit) together in your soul into a multifaceted grace strategy for edifying others.
 - GHS provides discernment to sense what the other person needs,
 - Enables you to give them what will most edify them in the moment.