

January 21, 2020

## Ten Pictures of Love - #1

1 Cor. 13:4-6 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Paul begins this amazing section on love by stating that real love is patient. The Greek word here for patient is makrothumeo. Makros means long and thumos means temper, passion or anger. Together they mean long-tempered or a long time to become angry. This kind of love waits for an opening to do its good work.

God models this for us. He is so very patient. Read through the following scriptures and meditate on the loving patience of God. Num. 14:18 The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. Neh. 9:17 They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them.

As God has love us, so we are to love each other. Is there even a modicum of patience in this world today? If we as His children, who have experienced this love of God, cannot give this kind of love, then who will?

Let us strive to love with patience.

Dear Lord, help me to be patient today. Help me to wait upon You and listen to Your voice as I interact with those You put in my path today. Lord, I need you. I need Your help to do this, because it is not in my nature, but I know it is Your nature. Help me to walk in Your love. In Jesus Name, Amen.