## THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY A 14 WEEK MESSAGE SERIES



**vine** CHURCH

" Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour 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. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)



C.S Lewis identified four types of love we can experience

#### John 15:12-15

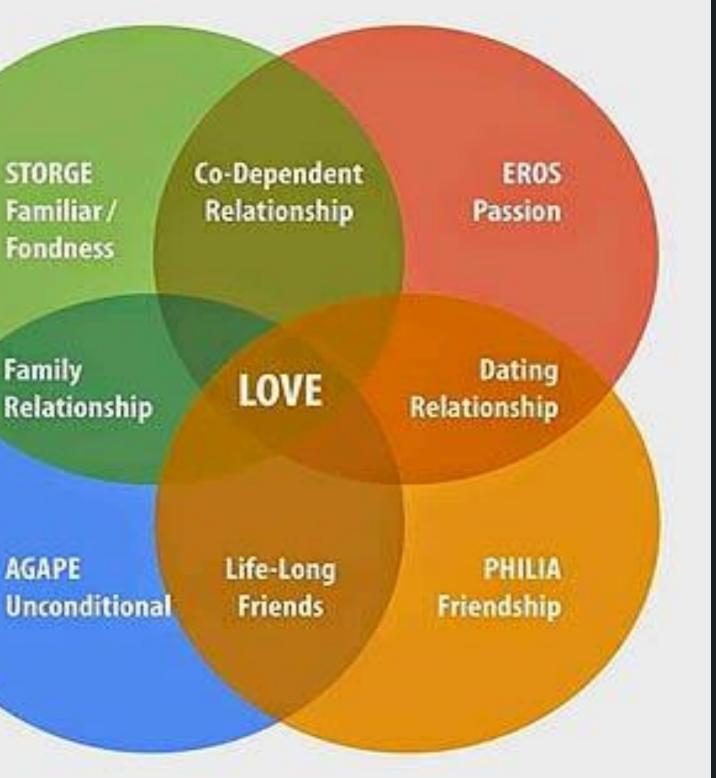
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

#### Philippians 4:1

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

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Patience is the quality of love that is forward looking and powerful to overcome challenges, establish peace and reap great rewards

## What Can Patience Do?

Proverbs 19:11 - A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 14:29 - Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly Proverbs 25:15 - Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

#### Psalm 40: I, 2

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand

#### Nehemiah 9:29-31

"For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you warned them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you gave them into the hands of the neighbouring peoples. But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God

#### Hebrews 6:11

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

#### James 5: 5-9

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

#### 2peter3: 8-9.

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.

#### 2Cornithans 6:4-10

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

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## How Can We Grow in Patience?

Simeon proclaimed while holding the infant Jesus in his arms: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." Luke 2: 29



#### Martin Luther Kings last words On April 3, 1968:

"We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop ... I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land"....

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life—longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will.... And so I'm happy tonight; I'm not worried about anything; I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord" (King, "I've Been," 222–223)



By fixing our eyes on Jesus, seeing what he has done and what he will vet do

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## How can we grow in patience?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

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1 Corinthians 13:4-7