

LEARNING TO LOVE OUR SPOUSE
LESSON TWO: LOVE IS PATIENT (SUFFERS LONG)

<p>✠ LOVE IS MUCH MORE THAN AN EMOTION</p> <p>✠ LOVE ACTS/DOES NOT ACT IN A CERTAIN WAY</p> <p>✠ LOVE IS LEARNED</p> <p>✠ LOVE IS HARD, NEVER ENDING WORK</p>

(Answer the following on the back or on a separate sheet of paper to allow yourself space to comment fully)

1. Define "patience" or "longsuffering" as used in 1 Cor 13:4.. How does this first action of love relate to the last one mentioned, "love never fails" (13:8). What will happen to marriage (or to any other relationship) if patience is not shown? Why? What action comes from patience which is crucial to having a close and long lasting relationship?

2. Discuss Jesus' patience (longsuffering) toward the following people. In each case discuss: 1) how Jesus was wronged, 2) how hard it would be for Him (or anyone) to endure such wrongs and want to continue to have a relationship with the one(s) who did them, and 3) How Jesus responded to those who wronged Him in a way which allowed for the restoration of the relationship.
 - a. Peter (Lk 22:31-34, 54-62; Mk 16:7; Lk 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5; Jn 21:15-17)
 - b. His crucifiers (Mt 26:59-68, 27:20-26, 27-31, 35-44; Lk 23:34, 1 Pet 2:18-23; Acts 2:36-38)
 - c. Paul (Acts 9:10-16; 1 Tim 1:12-17)

3. Compare the love shown above by the patience of Jesus with the "love" of those who want to end their relationship with their spouse over "burnt toast" or other such "offenses".

4. What happens in marriage (or any other relationship) when we don't exercise the patient restraint of Jesus and we answer insult with insult, mistreatment with mistreatment? Are we careful to apply Rom 12:17-21 to everyone but the one we profess to "love" most?

5. Write down any comments which you would like to share with the class about showing patience in the marriage relationship.

<p>When somebody has been so unkind to you, Some word spoken that pierces you thru and thru, Think how He was beguiled, spat upon and reviled, Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.</p>
