

SUMMERDALE YOUTH NEWS

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THE PURPOSE OF BEING PATIENT

Patience is a tough thing. We have to learn to be patient. It is definitely not easy, but it is necessary. Even though it is included as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), we struggle with patience as Christians. In all of his wisdom Solomon states that "The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit" (Ecclesiastes 7:8). In other words, it is better to be a patient person than someone who is solely interested in one's self. Isn't that obvious? Apparently not. Most people are consumed by selfishness, pride, and personal agendas. What is the real purpose for being a patient person?

Having patience is more than just a virtue. It is part of our way of life as a child of God. It is necessary for us to learn patience with people. For instance, sometimes difficult things come up in conversation. How should a Christian handle it? Be patient. It is my experience that as long as you study the Bible, and as long as you discuss the Bible, it won't take long to find people with whom you disagree. Sometimes people mildly disagree with you... other times they may vehemently disagree. I do not believe we should run from difficult subjects or difficult people. God allows those topics (and the fruit from the study) and other people with their own opinions/experiences to build character in us. It is often pleasurable to watch the difficult person walk away or to drop the difficult subject (i.e. agree to disagree). By engaging someone in conversation, even when it is difficult, we are improving empathy and conversation skills.

How can we be patient with people when they are persecuting us? Paul says that we must be "patient in tribulation" (Romans 12:12). That is what Jesus would do. Clearly, Jesus did not run from difficult people or difficult topics. Have you read about his interactions with the Pharisees? Often He would answer questions with questions, not to confuse the person, but to open further dialogue. Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." That is what we are after! Peace with others! Hebrews 12:14 says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." If we want to see God we have to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). It is impossible to do that by ignoring difficult subjects and/or difficult people. Your relationship with God is either strengthened or weakened based on your ability to handle difficult things and/or people. Don't run away from difficult things. Discuss, pray, study, and above all else keep the lines of communication open.

With all of this being said, there is one clear sign to me that clarifies the significance of learning patience. It is that we are learning to be more like our Heavenly Father. Think about the patience and longsuffering of God. How many times in stories do we see examples of the Lord's patience? Look no further than the cross. The Father waited since the fall of man, for thousands of years, to bring the scheme of redemption into its final stages. Consider the patience of Jesus, who knew that He was destined for the cruel cross. When we emulate the patience of God we reveal the character and image of our Father. Jesus was patient because of His role as the Son of God. The Spirit bears the fruit of patience because He dwells within the heart of child of God. These things all connect! People need to see the Lord in us. This is why we must practice patience.

How long should we be patient? Let's ask James, the half brother of Jesus. In James 5:7 he says, "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain." We need to seek patience and practice it until Jesus comes again. We might as well get started now learning and growing in patience.

Don't worry. Be patient. Have a great week!!!

*You are loved,
Ray*

SYG NEWS & EVENTS



We offer two opportunities for our children during the week for Bible study. On Sunday mornings we meet on the front pew for a "Pew Packers" style class before worship. SONSHINE STUDIES will have singing, Bible reading, and an object lesson for pre-K to 5th grade. We also have Wednesday night Bible classes for all ages! The teenagers will be studying the L2L material to prepare for the 2021 convention in Orlando, FL. Please bring your children and teens to Bible study and worship.



On Saturday night, April 10, we will be having BBQ & Bingo night for our Youth & Young Adults at 6 PM. Please bring your favorite chips and/or dessert. We will have dinner from 6-6:30 and then we will play bingo for about an hour. Small prizes will be given throughout the night to the winners.

We are excited to have youth playing softball and baseball this year. Please support our kids when you have time. The SCA schedule can be found on our youth Facebook page. It is such a blessing to see our kids showing Christian leadership on and off the field. Snap a picture if you see an SCOC sign!



Our youth are excited to attend the convention in Orlando - April 1-4. We have finalized our registration and have 12 going this year. If you would be interested in helping us financially, to make this more cost effective, please see Ray or Misty. We will have a presentation of awards after we return from convention.

We've got questions. You've got answers. Don't throw us shade. It's time to spill the tea. This is an interview with one of our teens in a series of random questions. We call it "7 Groovy Questions." You can find it on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube. The next video will be with Chase Joiner.



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