

PRAY THAT WE WOULD WAIT FOR ONE ANOTHER

1 CORINTHIANS 11:33

Problems plagued the church at Corinth. They were hopelessly divided into factions ("I am of Paul...I am of Cephas... I am of Apollos"). There was gross immorality among its members. They were taking one another to court. All this turned out for our benefit. As the apostle addressed each issue in his letter to them, the Holy Spirit inspired him with much practical guidance on how to deal with problems in today's church.

PATIENCE

One of the problems was the riotous and rude way they came together to eat and then to observe the Lord's Supper. Some of the wealthier ones would eat sumptuously while others would watch ravenously. The result was a riotous time of eating, hurt feelings, and a ruined worship experience.

So Paul admonishes them strongly and then concludes with the instruction, "When you come together to eat, wait for one another." Waiting involves patience. Why is it that when we find ourselves in a group where confession of sin is called for, the one that we are all willing to openly admit is that of impatience, as though this is a "safe sin," not really so bad. Certainly, we think, no one can be faulted for a little impatience. Yet when Paul begins to describe what agape love is all about (1 Cor. 13:4ff), he begins by saying, "Love is patient."

The Greek word for patient is that of a slow burn or a long fuse. Love waits for one another. When God let his glory pass by Moses, who was hidden in the cleft of the rock, God declared his name and his character, "the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering." If God is anything, he is patient toward people. Can you even imagine relating to a God who is short suffering? No wonder patience is included among the fruit of the Spirit.

Waiting involves common courtesy. Max Lucado, in his book *A Love Worth Giving*, points at God's courteousness by reminding us that "Jesus makes Emily Post look like Archie Bunker."

When God comes into our lives, He always brings a gift (The Holy Spirit). He tells us his name (Exod. 3:15) and calls us by ours (John 10:3). He listens to us (Ps. 116:2). He is never early or late, but always right on time. He opens doors for us (2 Cor. 2:12) and offers us a seat with him in the heavens (Eph. 2:6).

If God is so courteous with us, would it not behoove us to trust one another the same way and "wait for one another"? Americans are into fast living, We eat at a restaurant not necessarily because it is good food. But because it is fast food. We drive on express ways in the fast lane. And while we drive, we "multitask" by listening to CDs and talking on our cell phones.

A roadside sign spotted recently read, "Right lane. Hang up." The best selling shampoo on the market sells because we can wash and condition in one easy step. There is a funeral home that offers a drive through viewing window for those who don't have time to go inside. This time frenzy spills over into our churches.

We have programs and ministries for every age group and personal need at every possible time on every day of the week. Someone has put it this way:

Mary had a little lamb; It would have grown to be a sheep. But it went to all the church events And died from lack to sleep.

In this time pressured, stressed out society, God admonishes us to "wait for one another." Be patient as God works in our lives at different speeds in different ways. Be courteous and kind toward one another as God uses our frustrations with one another to knock off the rough edges of our character in order to confirm us to the image of his son.

Therefore, my brethren When you come together to eat, Wait for one another. 1 CORINTHIANS 11:33

JANUARY 13, 2024 SATURDAY - DAY 6

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PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

1. Pray that you will begin to see the interruptions in your daily schedule as divine appointments.
2. Pray that the same spirit of long suffering that is central to the character of God will become part of your own make up.
3. Pray that God will reveal to you just how heinous your impatient spirit is and that you might confess it, forsake it, and be delivered from it.
4. Thank God that he is not as impatient with your development and obedience as you are with others.

One way we care for each other is Through attentive listening, To feel Cared for is to feel listened to.

God blesses churches where Members care for one another.

Care equals doing practical things Lawn mowing, car repair, praying.