

- Love is hard work
- These lessons are not presented from the advantage of one who is good at love.
- Rather one who is poor at love, who needs to get better.
- Understanding the words and teaching is one thing.
- This is my struggle to love.



- 1 John 4:8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- Understanding love
 - We tend to define love in ways that we are most comfortable with.



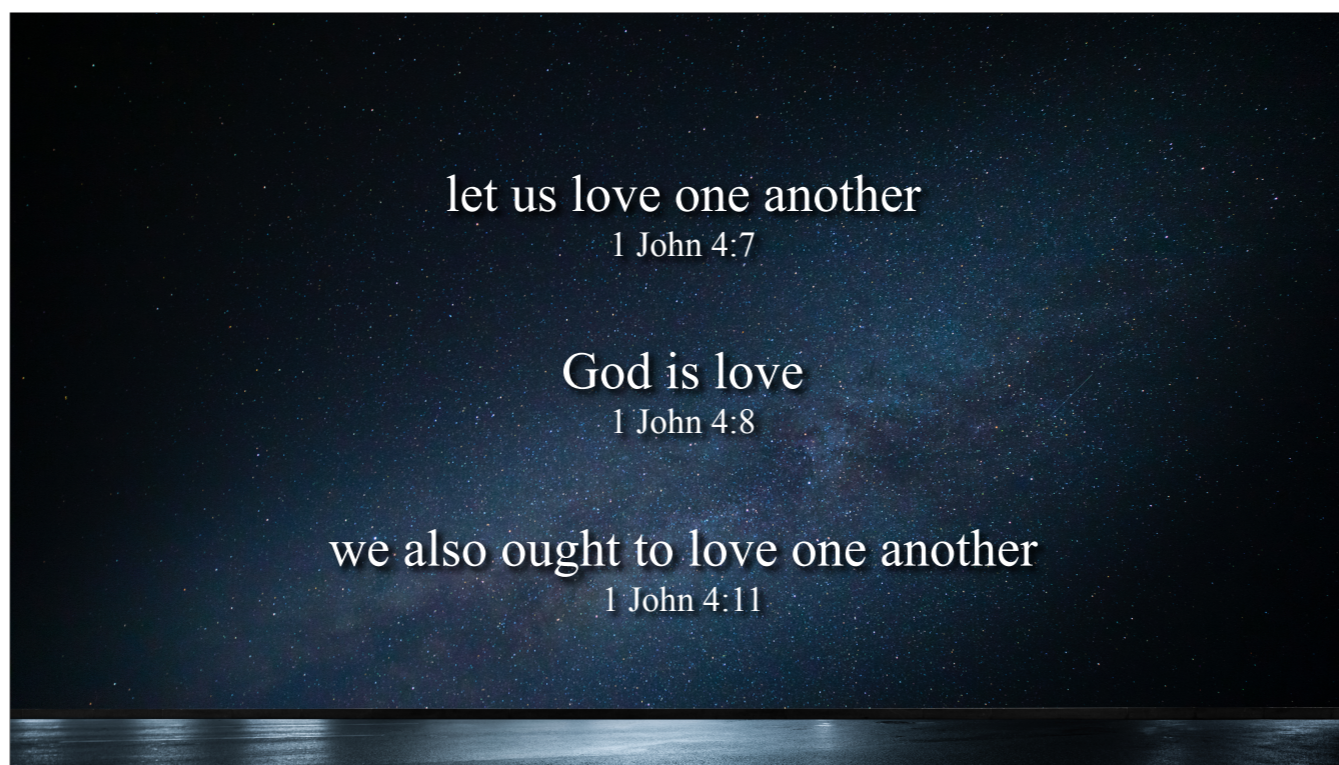
- Sometimes extreme
 - I could never believe in a god who would send someone to hell for eternity.
- Sometimes convenient
 - I can do whatever I think is best and as long as my intentions are good, god will accept it
 - As long as I do exactly what god says god will be pleased
- Sometimes lazy
 - God doesn't care what I do, he loves me anyway.



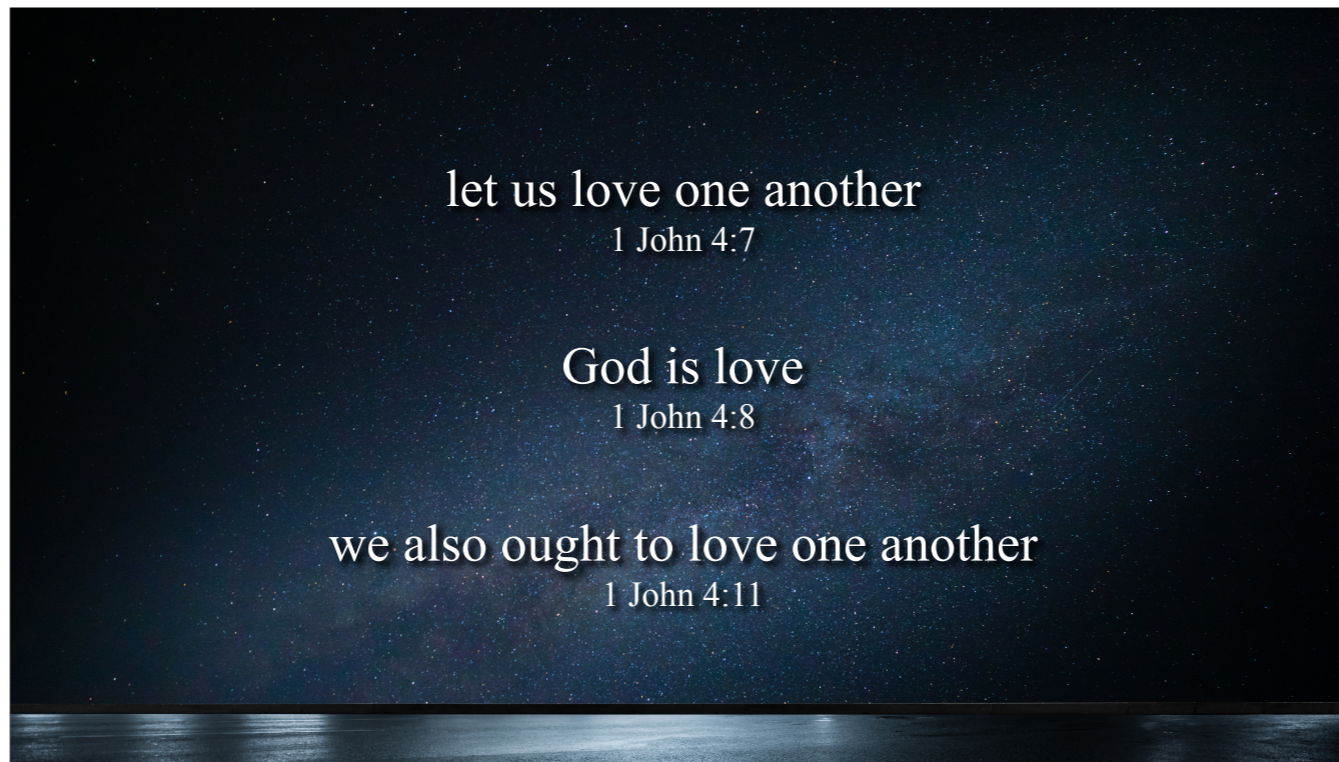
- 1 John 4:9-10 (ESV)
 - 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
 - that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.
 - 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



- 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.



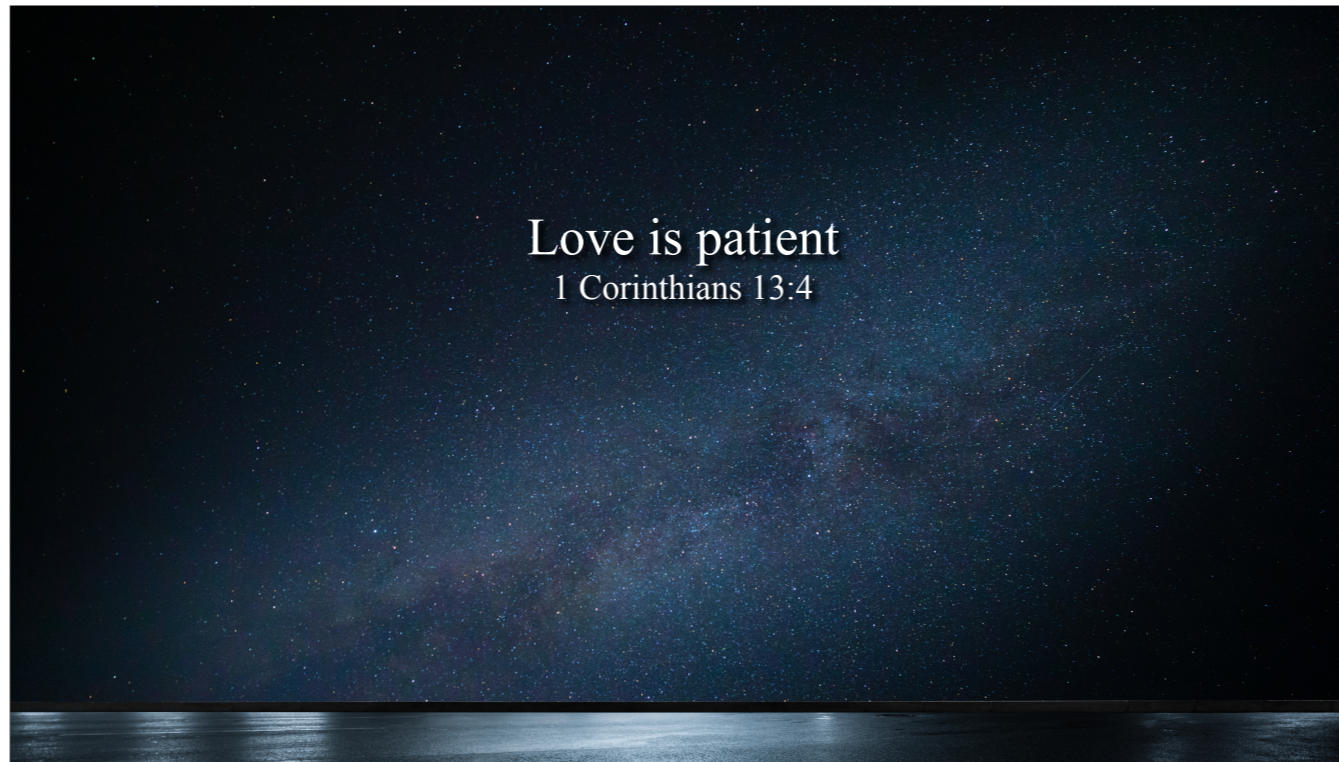
- 1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- Those who are devoted followers of God understand that there's no way to get around the importance of loving one another.
 - As Paul has shown, whatever we do, if we do it without love it's pointless.



- However, we still tend to define our love for each other in ways that are comfortable for ourselves also.
 - I don't have to love her because she is unsound on these issues.
 - I don't have to love him because he is sinning.
 - I don't have to love them because they treated me poorly, wronged me, hurt my feelings.
 - I don't have to love them ...



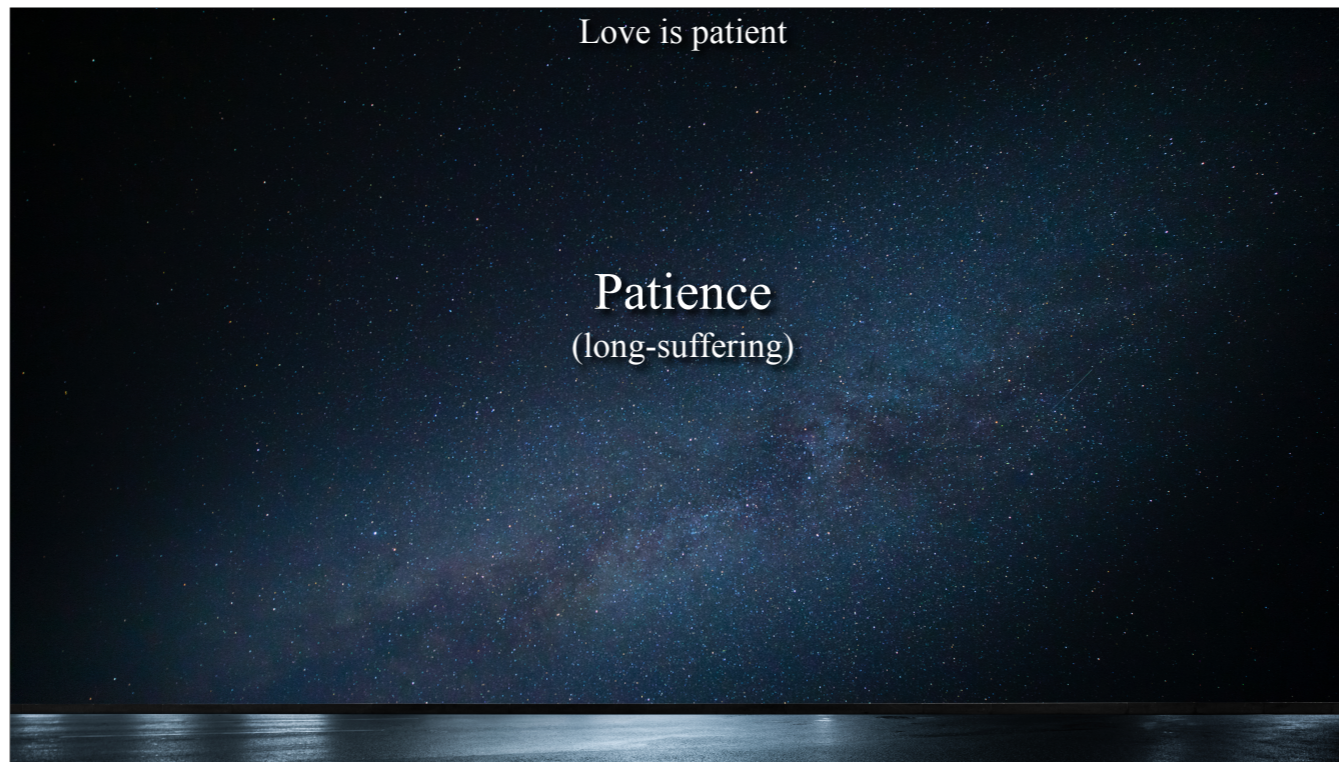
- John, through the Spirit, however pushes us even further
 - 1 John 3:12 (ESV) 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.
 - John makes it clear that a failure to love is a failure in myself.
 - It's really not about them.
 - It's about me.



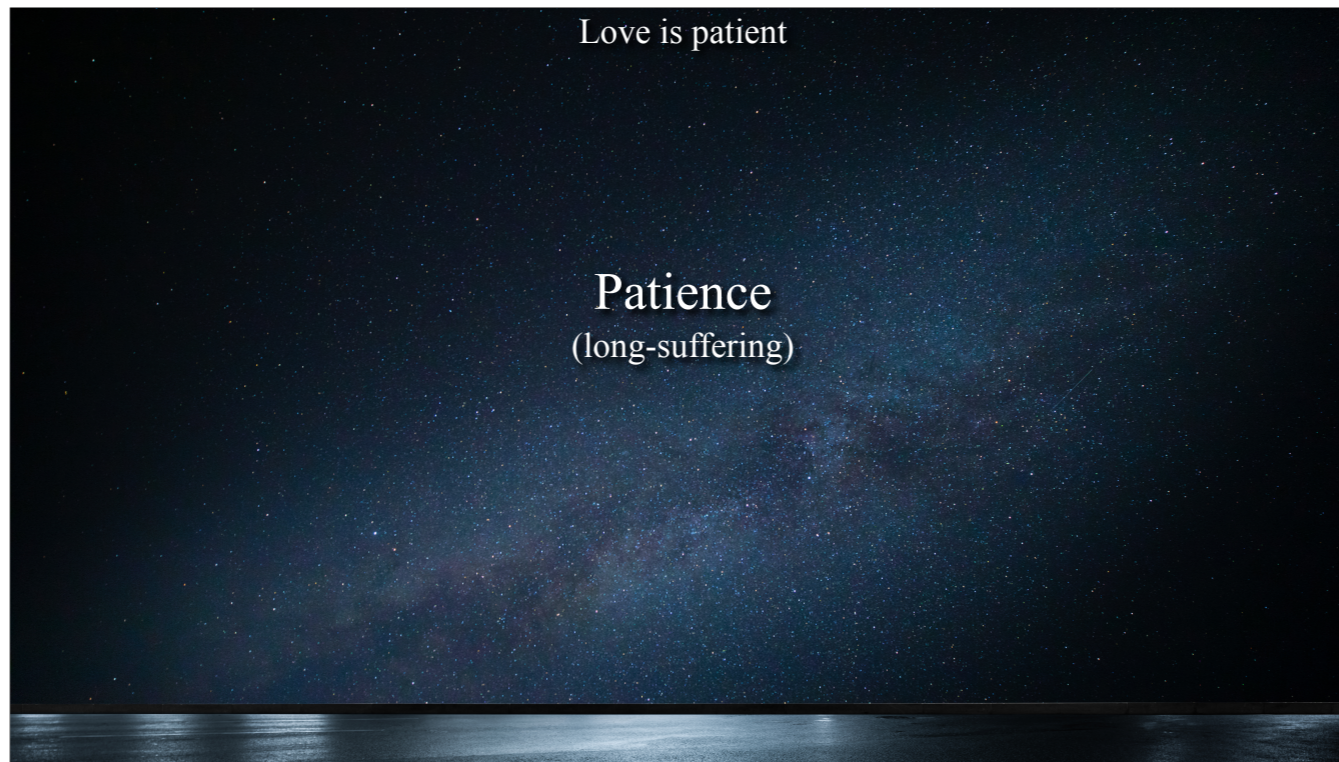
Love is patient

1 Corinthians 13:4

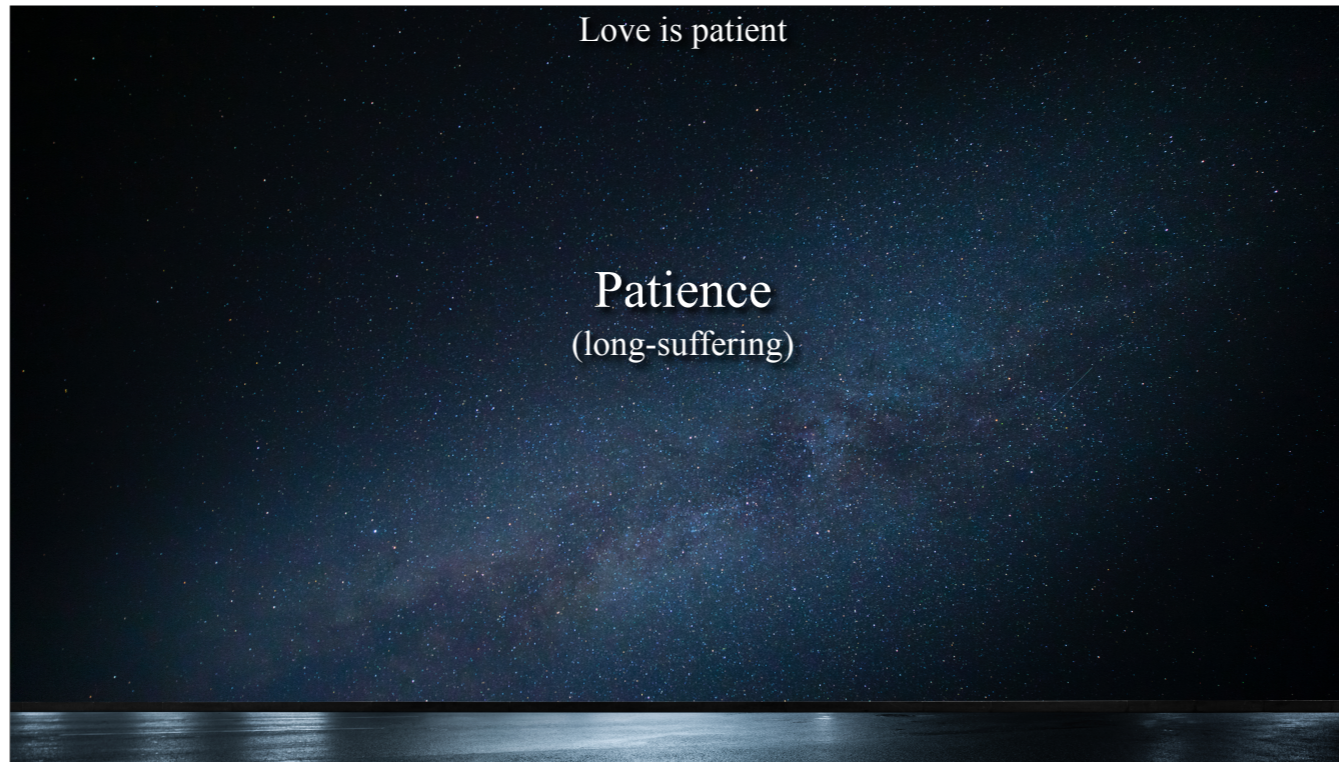
- 1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant
- The Holy Spirit, through Paul, helps us to understand what love and what love is not.
 - Starts with 2 positive aspects of love
 - Then 8 aspects of what love is not
 - And ends with another positive aspect
- What is meant by love is patient?



- Patience (long-suffering) — makrothumeo
 - used of both events or circumstances and people
- Vincent:
 - a long-protracted restraint of the soul from yielding to passion, especially the passion of anger.



- TDNT
 - Longsuffering obviously does not mean irresolution or compliance. It is not swayed by emotion but has the end in view.
 - Forbearance is a necessary quality in the service of God (2 Cor. 6.6), linking knowledge and kindness.
 - Its purpose is wholly positive, namely to allow space for repentance.



- Trench
 - the self restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong.
 - a long holding out of the mind, before it gives room to action or to passion.

Love is patient

Paul

The saying is trustworthy and deserving
of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus
came into the world to save sinners,
of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15

- Patience!
- 1 Timothy 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
- Paul didn't always see himself as being a sinner.
 - Philippians 3:6: "as to righteousness under the law, blameless"

Love is patient

Paul

The saying is trustworthy and deserving
of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus
came into the world to save sinners,
of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15

- 1 Timothy 1:13: formerly
 - a blasphemer
 - speaking against: whether God or man: reviling
 - persecutor
 - Stephen, church, Jesus
 - insolent opponent
 - arrogantly insults and injures, wantonly and outrageously
 - acted ignorantly in unbelief
 - Is ignorance an excuse?
 - Is not unbelief a sin?

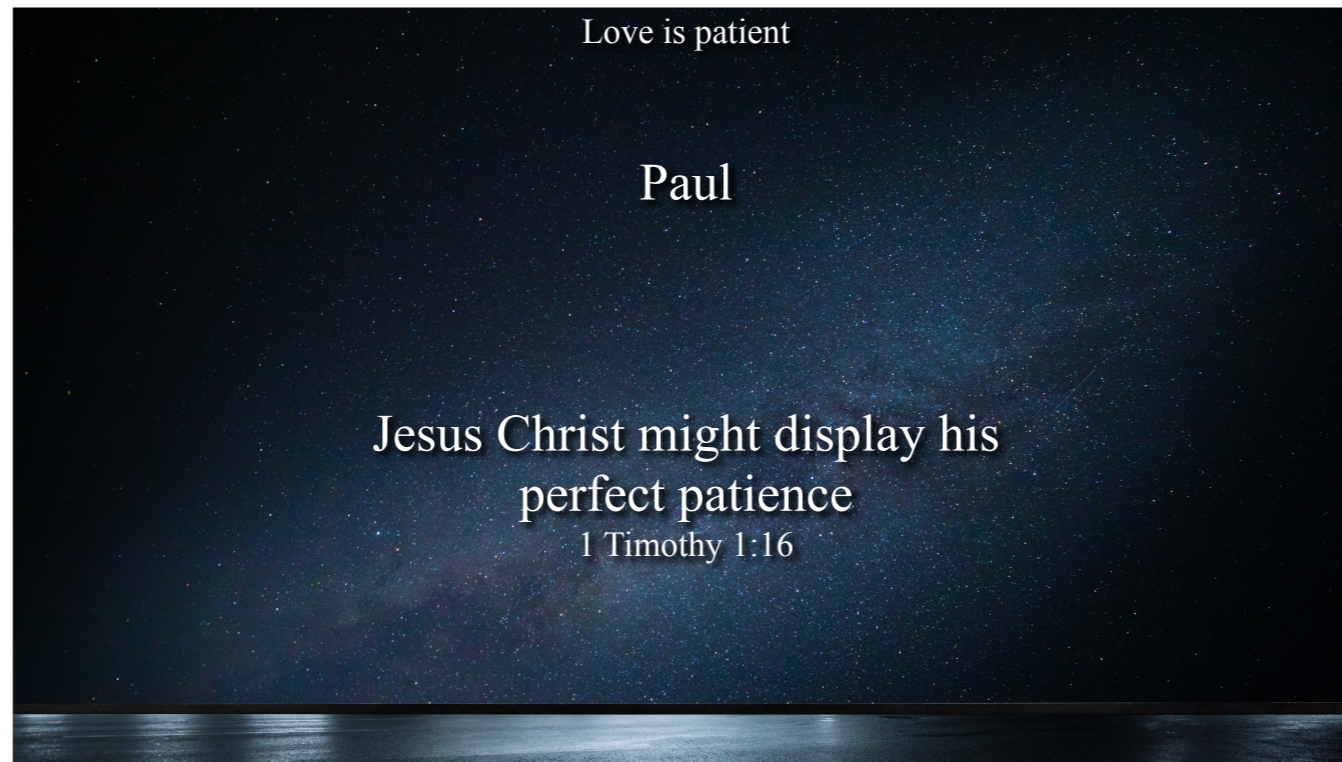
Love is patient

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The saying is trustworthy and deserving
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of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15

- Why didn't Jesus just strike Paul down?
 - What would you have done to Paul
 - love is patient
 - "I received mercy"
- 1 Timothy 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.



- 1 Timothy 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.
 - perfect patience
 - 12: judged me faithful
 - 13: received mercy
 - 14: grace overflowed

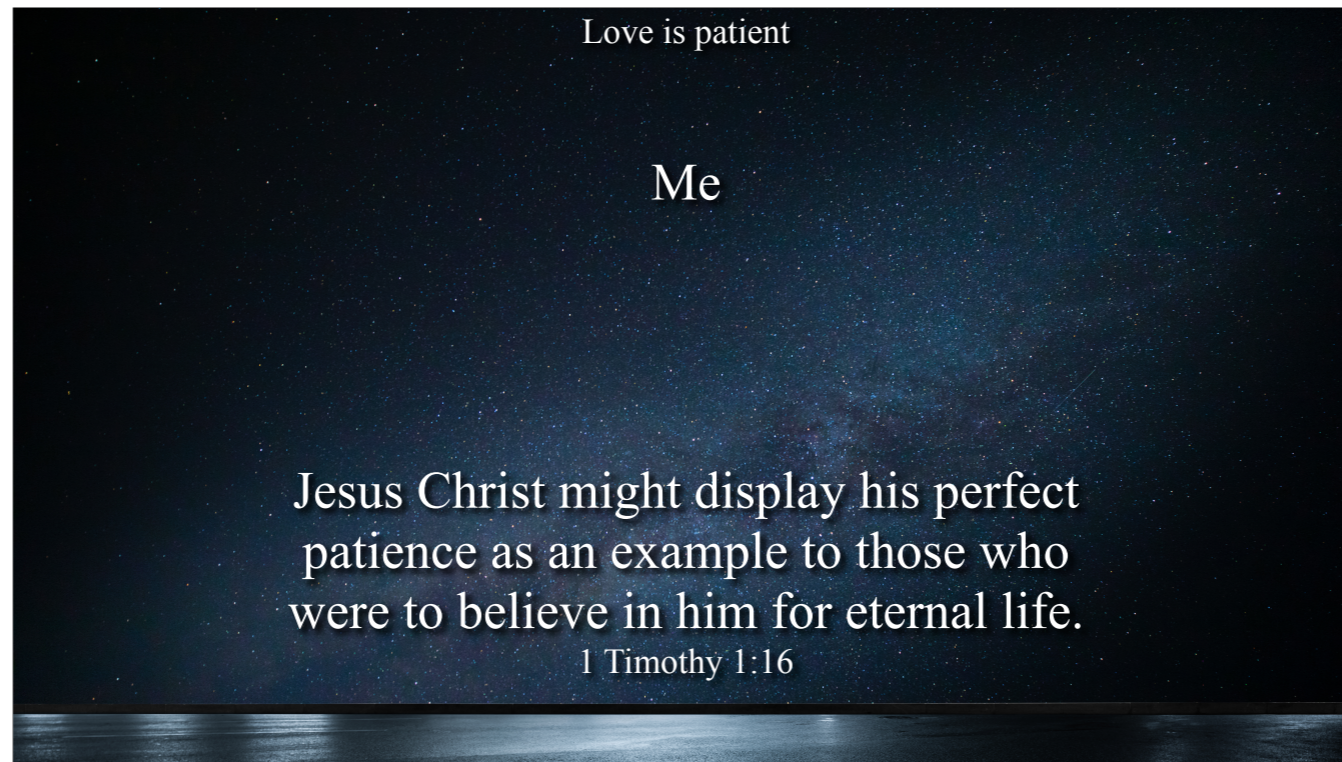
Love is patient

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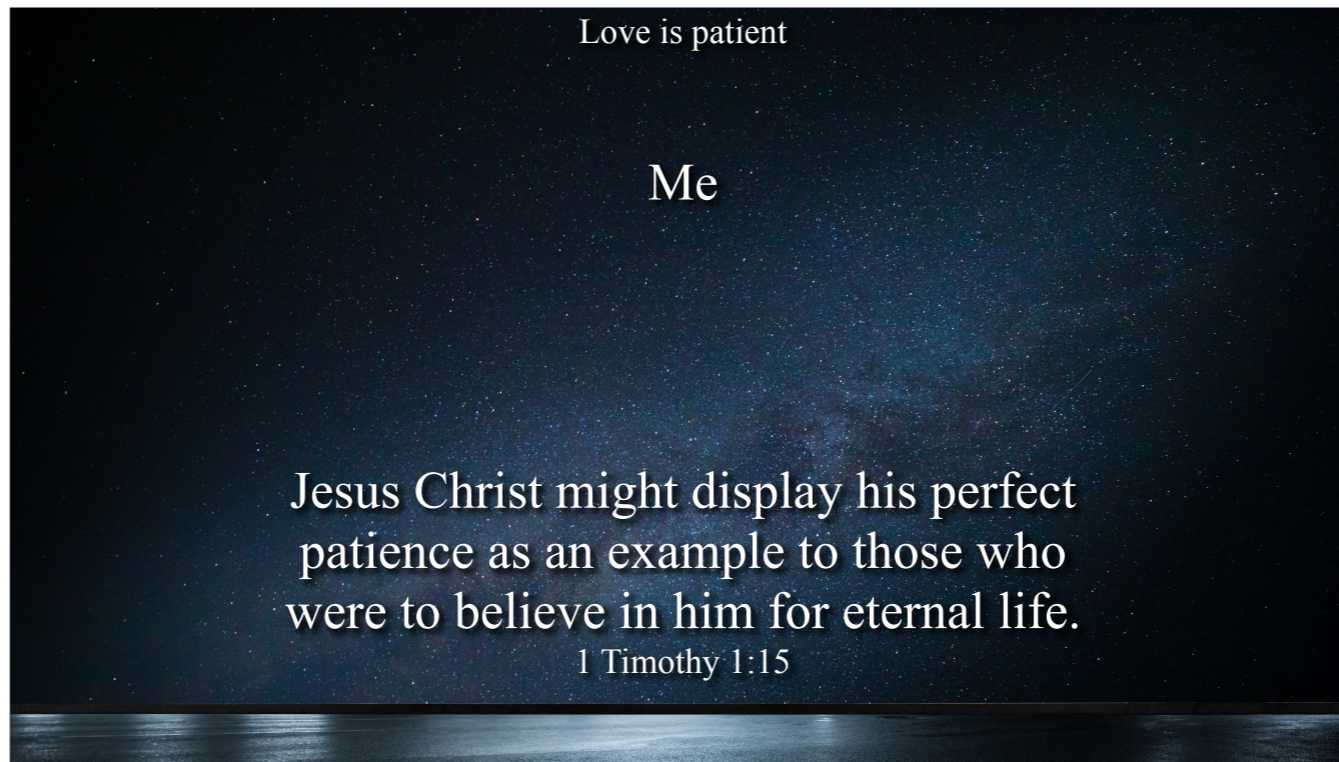
Jesus Christ might display his
perfect patience

1 Timothy 1:16

- 1 Timothy 1:17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.



- 1 Timothy 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.
- Spoken of 7 times in various passages
- Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?



- Following the example of Jesus' perfect patience and kindness
- Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV)
 - 21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Love is patient

Me

Jesus Christ might display his perfect
patience as an example to those who
were to believe in him for eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15

- When others have wronged us, repeatedly, are we ready to forgive like Jesus forgives me?
 - This forgiveness, as we've seen, requires patience
 - Note: This is not just about how we treat those who are good to us, or perhaps slight us in some way.
 - Repeated sins
- Will our patience lead them to repentance?
- Or will we push them further away?

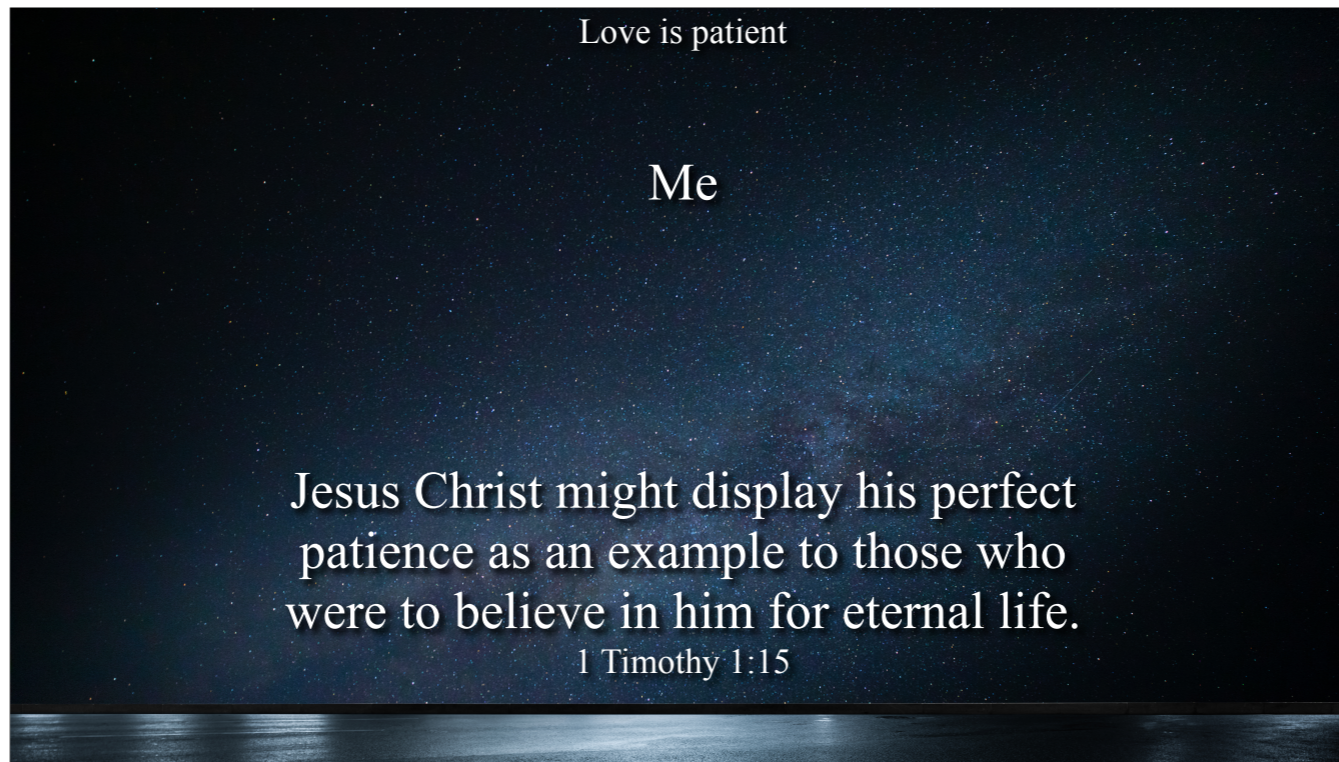
Love is patient

Me

Jesus Christ might display his perfect
patience as an example to those who
were to believe in him for eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15

- Familiar with the parable that follows about settling accounts
 - A servant who owes more than he can pay pleads for patience.
 - The master shows pity and forgives the debt completely.
 - The forgiven man then pursues another servant who owes him a paltry debt.
 - The servant pleads for patience
 - But the forgiven man refuses and does not forgive the debt.



- The forgiven man is summoned to his master again
 - You wicked servant
 - Matthew 18:33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’
- Matthew 18:35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Love is patient

Me

Jesus Christ might display his perfect
patience as an example to those who
were to believe in him for eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15

- Patience leads to mercy that forgives.
 - The demand for payment of debts is self focused on our own feelings and desire for our rights and a form of justice in our own minds
 - But love is about doing the hard things.

Love is patient

And we urge you, brothers,

admonish the idle,

encourage the fainthearted,

help the weak,

be patient with them all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

- Patience is vital in times of trouble
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

Love is patient

And we urge you, brothers,

admonish the idle,

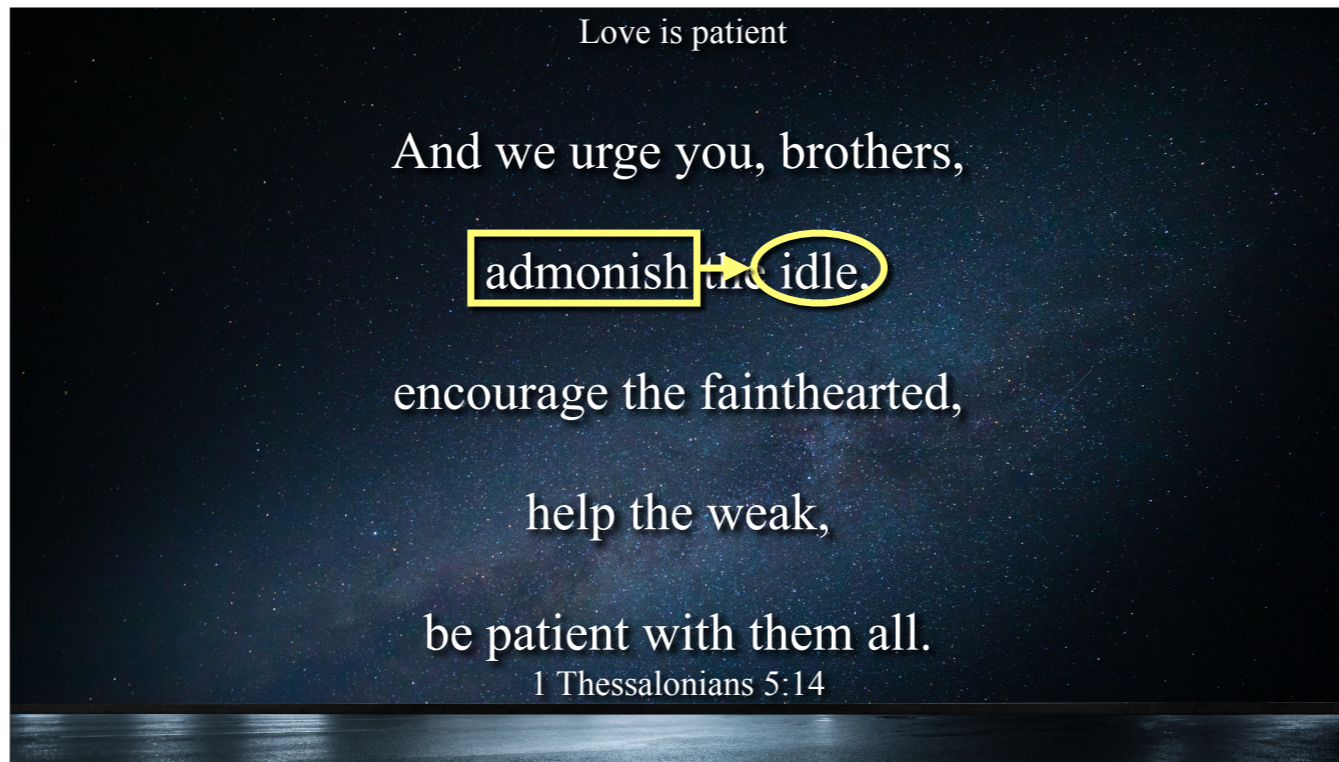
encourage the fainthearted,

help the weak,

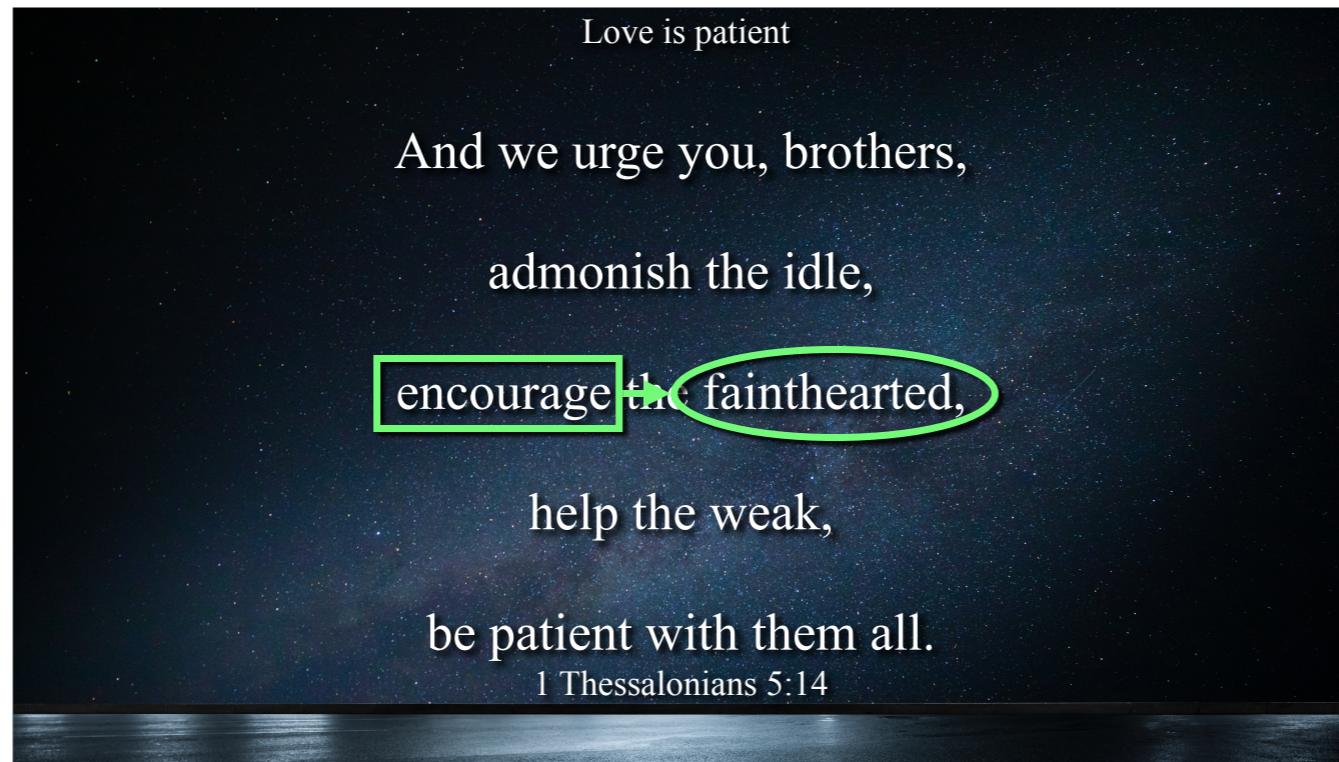
be patient with them all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

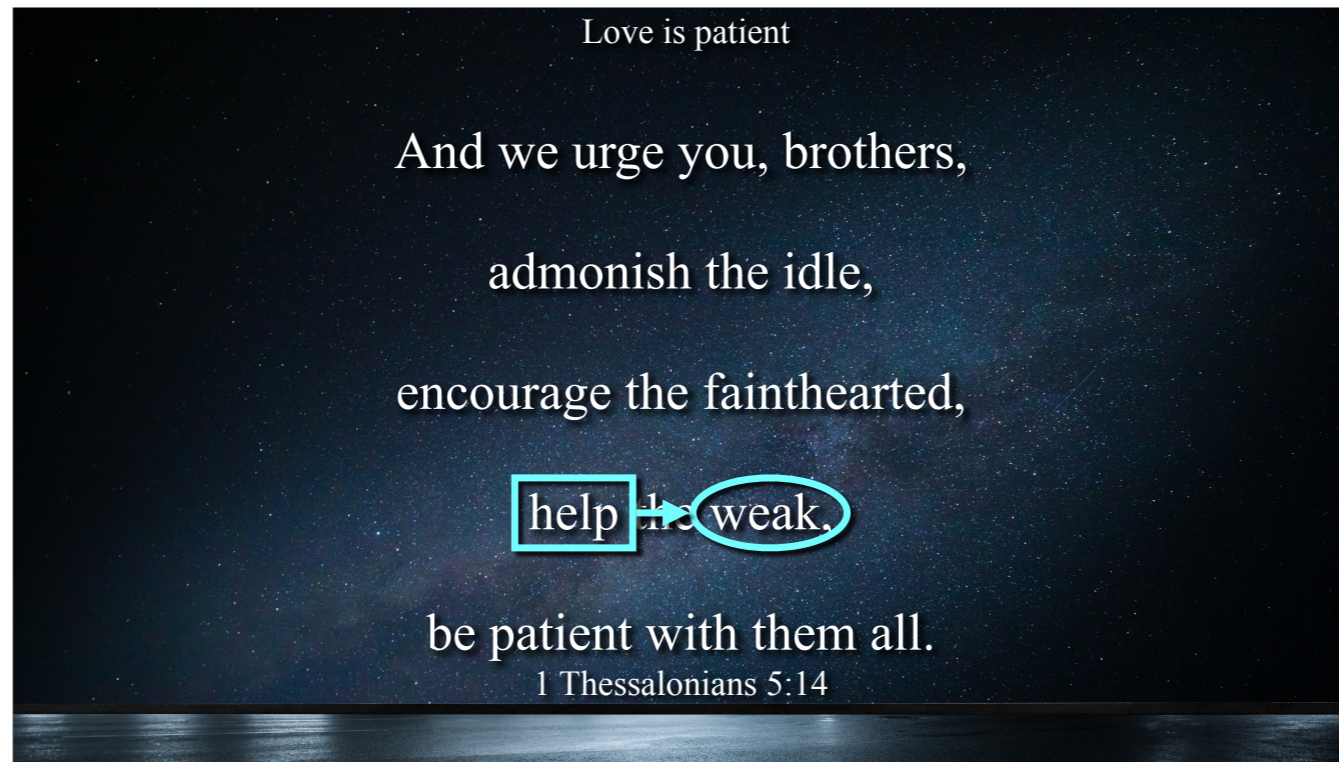
- Brothers who are struggling
 - idle
 - disorderly, lazy, irresponsible
 - fainthearted
 - lost heart, dismayed, ready to quit, broken spirit
 - weak (sick)
 - without strength, exhausted



- These all need help appropriate to their struggle
 - Admonish the idle
 - Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

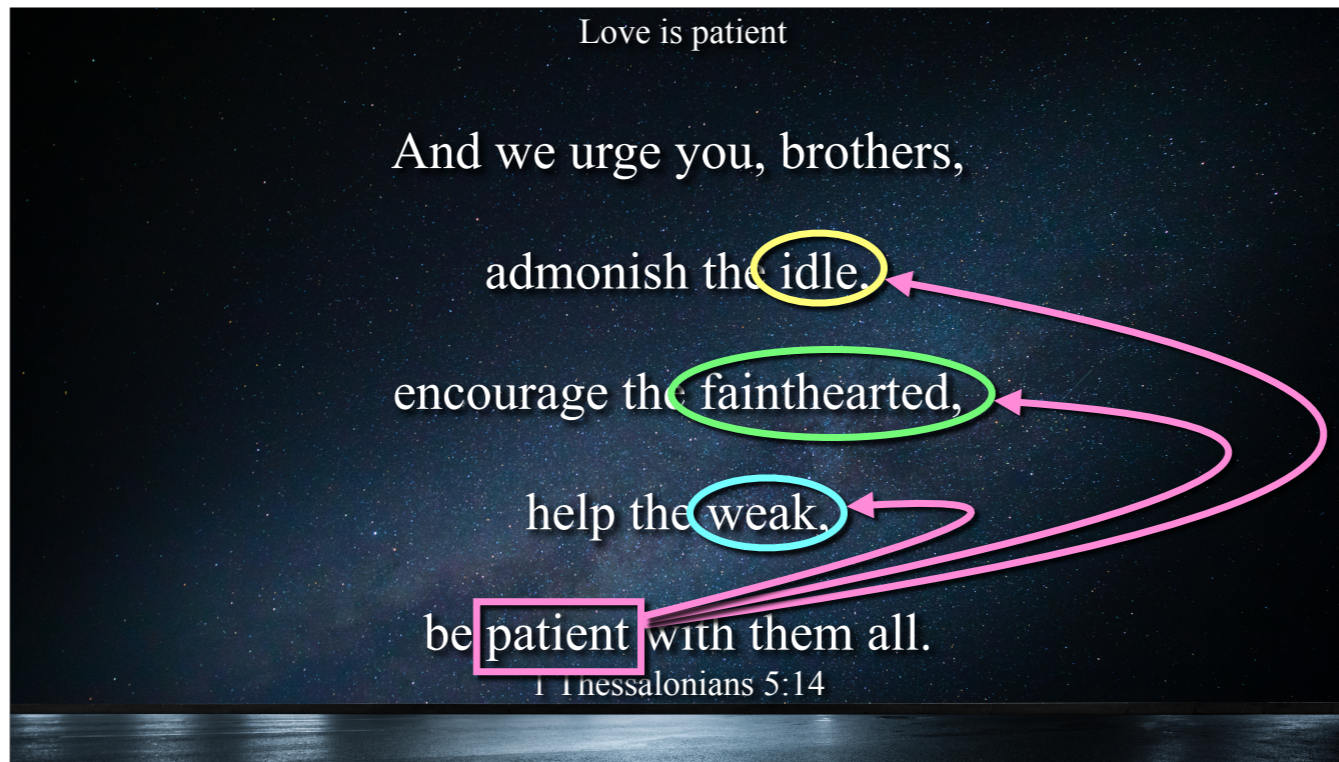


- Encourage the fainthearted
 - calm, console
 - Hebrews 12:12-13 (ESV) 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

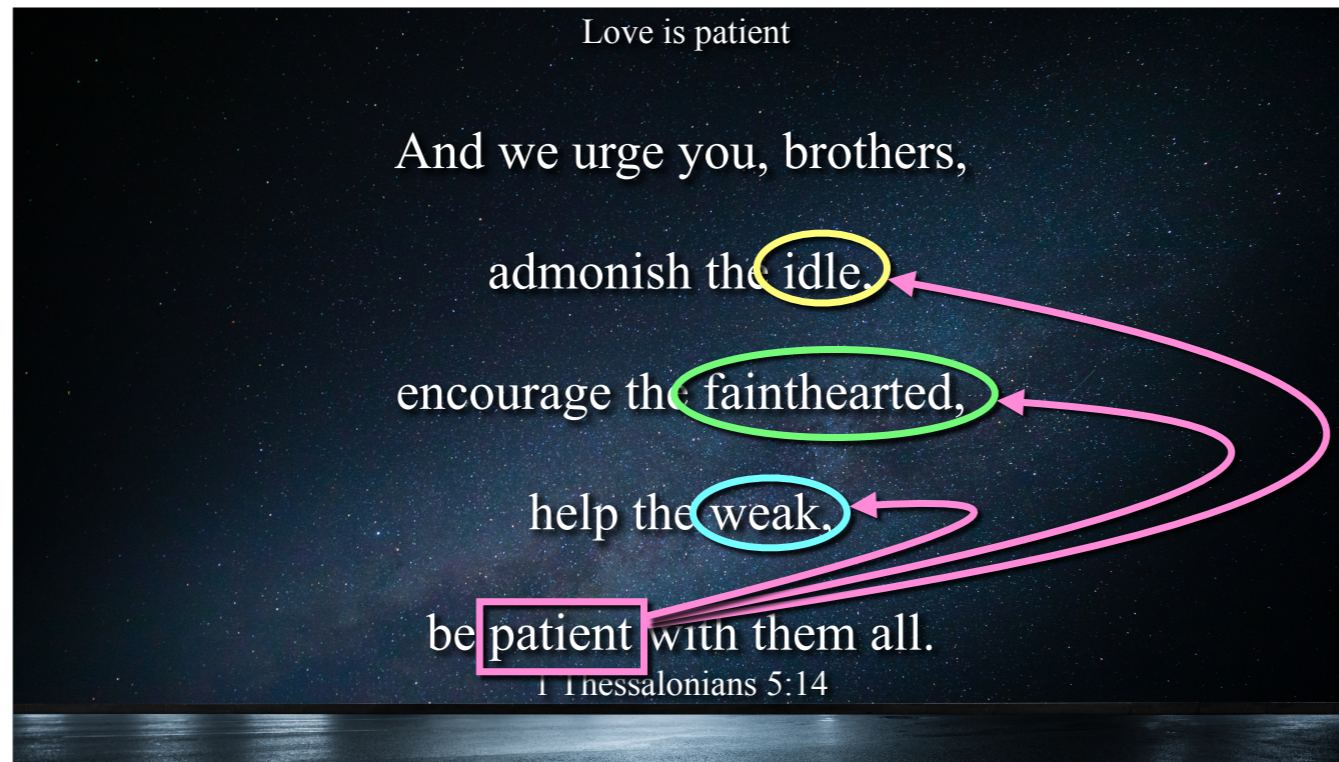


- Help the weak

- hold firmly, cleave to, pay attention to
- Matthew 26:41 The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- 1 Corinthians 1:27 God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong
- 1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.



- Paul's over arching instruction for all of these is patience
 - It's easy to get exasperated, frustrated, weary of those who are constantly struggling.



- But Love is about doing the hard things
 - and that means helping them in the ways that they need help so that they can be mature, and strong, and healed, and saved
 - So these who are struggling aren't going to get better with a quiet word and a handshake
 - They are going to need our attention, care, love. Repeatedly.

Love is patient

be patient with them all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14



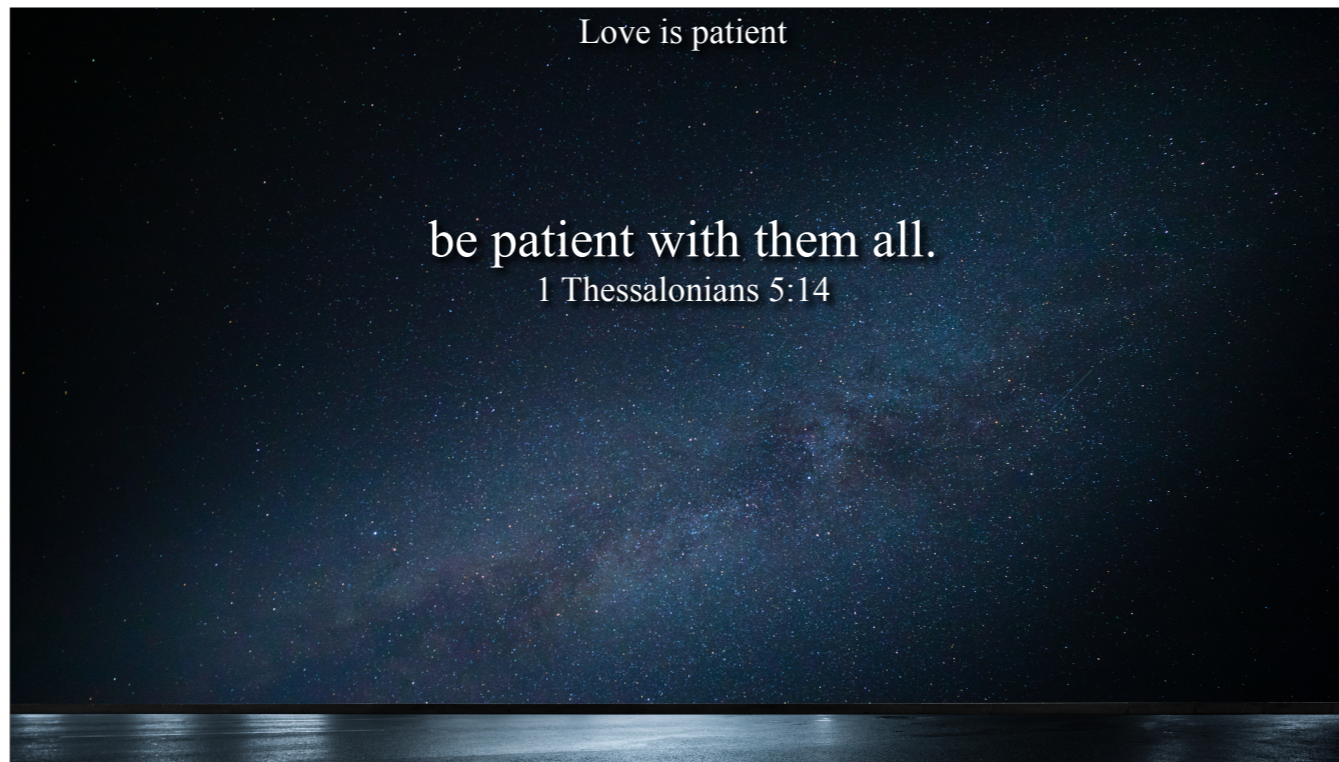
- Consider how these aspects of love would have helped the church in Corinth.
- They certainly needed patience
- They needed to be practicing true love.

Love is patient

be patient with them all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

- They needed to be united, but they were divided
 - Wisdom, tolerating sin, suing each other, idolatry, communion, gift of the Spirit, resurrection.
 - And how did they treat each other? Fighting, disdain, exclusion, arrogance



- Why is this?
 - There is a very worldly tendency to think of and treat those who differ from us in very hurtful ways.
 - We see them as less than ourselves.
 - We see them as unworthy, unholy.
 - We see them as deceived or deluded
 - We see them as being false
 - We see them as having wronged us, or failed us

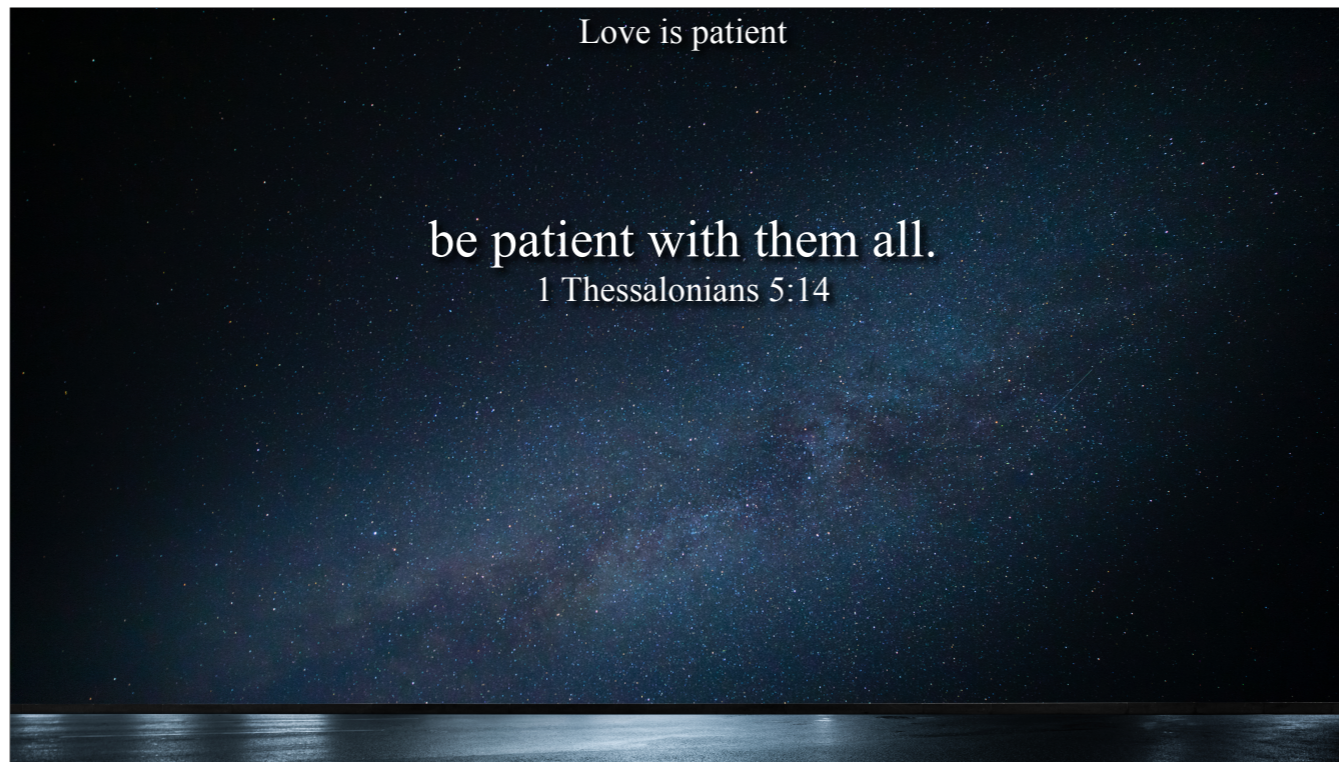
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1 Thessalonians 5:14



- And for those in Christ, that must change
 - We need to see them as our neighbors and treat them as brothers, not enemies
 - While understanding that they have wronged us, we treat them patient love
 - leading to repentance



- Why do we need to be patient?
 - Because each of us have flaws, sins, failures, issues.
 - Because some of us face struggles and trials and testing.
 - Because sometimes we are weak.
- Listen
 - We generally don't actually say things like "Have patience with me..."

Love is patient

be patient with them all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

- Both in word and in deed
 - To the individual, certainly
 - To do this we need to change how we are thinking of them.
 - Which is difficult
 - As we speak about them to others (even trying to “help” them)
 - grumbling, murmuring

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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The Greatest of These

#04

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Love Is Patient

1 Corinthians 13:4

Synopsis: We can learn the importance of being patient with one another by seeing God's patience toward us.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”