

PATIENT ENDURANCE

Walk . . . with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2

Tolerance relates to putting up with another person's obvious humanness and bearing with his or her imperfections. To express tolerance demands setting aside a self-centered focus and adopting instead a God-centered perspective. God sees each of us as very different, absolutely unique, undoubtedly imperfect, but divinely created.

To express tolerance means I must "suffer long" with my spouse and "put up with" his or her humanness. I must bear with my spouse's flaws and peculiarities with a good attitude. I must be free from resentment as I show tolerance toward my spouse. I must show humility and gentleness instead.

Tolerance relates to patiently enduring my spouse's differences in preference and habits. I must be patient if I like crunchy peanut butter and she insists on smooth. I must be patient if he's a night owl and I'm at my best at dawn. Tolerance also relates to patiently enduring my spouse's weaknesses. I must suffer long even if I always put the car keys on the designated key hook and yet my spouse can barely find the car. I must maintain a good attitude even when I have a great sense of direction and am quite adept at reading a map and yet my spouse can't find his or her way out of a paper bag.

Finally, tolerance relates to God's choice to bear with me and my sin as He sent His Son to die. God endured my humanness as He gave up His Son on my behalf. He daily endures my imperfections and suffers long as I struggle to live a life that is pleasing to Him. Tolerance is a gift I have been given. I am challenged to give what I have already received.

**Thank You, Father, for Your powerful example
in putting up with me.**

What issues might you overlook today that have previously been a big deal? How might you show tolerance for your spouse?

from *The One Year Devotions for Couples*
by David and Teresa Ferguson



RESOURCES FOR COUPLES

Marriage is one life's most rewarding relationships.

It is a challenge to build a strong, God-honoring relationship. Whether you are 18 or 80, dating, engaged, or married, there is a stimulating book, class or seminar for the two of you.

Weekend to Remember A time to renew your love and commitment to one another, to reminisce all the reasons why you married, and to restore a little romance in your relationship. It is a weekend to discover the blueprints for a healthy, happy marriage. Mar 8-10 at Sunriver (WeekendToRemember.com). Save \$100 when you register using the group "MarriagePDX."

Restored and Remarried Seminar Encouragement for remarried couples in a stepfamily. Been remarried for awhile or just contemplating the idea? Topics include: Strengthening your relationship, Co-Parenting, Step Parenting, Conflict resolution, and Dealing with the "ex". This seminar is fun and interactive and it's most definitely, "guy friendly." March 15-16 at First Church of God, Longview, WA. Details at RestoredAndRemarried.com.

Cannon Beach Couples Conference Shane and Phillis Womack will address difficult issues such as: How to eliminate sexual refusal; How to develop sexual intimacy; How to avoid emotional affairs, and much more. Their skillful presentation is lively, full of content, interesting, and sprinkled with humor and personal stories. April 5-7. Details at C BCC.net

Adventurous Life Marriage Retreat Treat your spouse to an adventurous weekend away this April that will be fun, challenging, and unforgettable. Spend 2 nights in a gorgeous home overlooking the breathtaking Oregon Coast focusing on your marriage. You will be pampered, eat fabulous food, and have fun with your spouse while being inspired through engaging and reflective experiences. The goal of the retreat is to grow to deeper levels of intimacy and joy in your marriage. Want more details? AdventurousLife.net

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Every Marriage Matters

Helping Marriages Become All God Intended

Check out additional resources at www.EveryMarriageMatters.org