

# 54: PATIENCE WITH IMPERFECT PEOPLE

By John Leavy

In Week 11: Discipleship in Relationships

4 Min read



*“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” — Romans 12:18*

Anyone who has spent time on a trail knows that the biggest challenges are not always the terrain. Sometimes they’re the people you’re walking with. One hiker moves too fast. Another slows the group down. Someone misses the trail marker that everyone else saw. Someone forgets what they should have packed and ends up depending on others to carry part of the load. The longer the journey, the more opportunities there are to become frustrated.

Life with people works the same way.

Romans 12:18 says, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” Most men think about that verse when relationships are already broken. What often goes unsaid is that peace is usually lost long before the argument starts. It is lost in the unmet expectations and small offenses we choose to carry instead of release.

Living at peace with people means living among imperfect people. That sounds simple until their weaknesses begin affecting your plans, your schedule, your responsibilities, or your comfort. Then patience becomes more than a virtue—it becomes a test of character.

Many men think patience means putting up with inconvenience. Scripture points to something deeper. Patience is choosing not to make another person pay for being human. It is refusing to become easily irritated when people fall short of your expectations. It is remembering how often God has shown patience toward you and extending that same grace to others.

The truth is, every man wants understanding when he stumbles. Every man wants grace when he misses the mark. Yet we often expect others to perform better than we do ourselves. That's one of the hidden roots of conflict. We judge our failures by our intentions and other people's failures by their actions.

The trail has a way of exposing that mindset. So do relationships.

Strong men learn that patience is not weakness. It is strength under control. It is the willingness to walk with imperfect people while remembering that you are one of them.

## **APPLICATION**

What often goes unsaid about impatience is that it usually reveals more about us than the person frustrating us. We become irritated because someone slowed us down, disrupted our plans, misunderstood what we said, or failed to meet our expectations. On the surface, their behavior looks like the problem. But many times the real issue is what is happening in our own hearts.

Impatience often grows from pride. We assume our timeline is the right timeline. Our priorities become the standard. Our expectations become the measure by which everyone else is judged. When people fail to live up to those expectations, frustration is not far behind. Wow, this reality really sounds harsh.

Patience does not mean ignoring problems or avoiding hard conversations. It does not mean pretending unhealthy behavior is acceptable. Romans 12:18 says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Those words acknowledge that peace is not always within our control. But our attitude, our response, and our willingness to extend grace are. We can't let other people's behavior affect how we act.

The trail offers a good reminder. Not everyone in the group will handle the trail in the same way. One hiker runs out of energy. Another loses confidence on a steep climb. Another misses a turn and needs help getting back on course. Mature hikers understand that the goal is not to criticize the person who is struggling. The goal is to help him keep moving forward.

The same is true in our relationships.

Before responding in frustration, ask yourself whether the issue is truly their failure or your expectations. Before pointing out someone else's weakness, remember how often others have shown patience toward yours. Before assuming the worst, leave room for grace.

Patience grows when we remember that none of us have arrived. God is still shaping the people around us, and He is still shaping us. That perspective changes how we respond. It softens irritation, slows judgment, and creates room for the kind of peace that Romans 12:18 calls us to pursue.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

This week, pay attention to the people who test your patience most. Instead of reacting immediately, pause and pray for them. Ask God to help you extend the same grace you have received. Patience is not ignoring imperfections. It is choosing peace while God continues shaping both of you.

### ***PRAY THIS...***

***“Lord, help me to see my imperfections, before I notice those in others.”***

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Practice builds the man.***

Contact: John Leavy  
Email: [johndleavy@gmail.com](mailto:johndleavy@gmail.com)  
Website: [1Man2Another.com](http://1Man2Another.com)