

Take-Home · Session 6

The Fruits That Build: Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity

What We Found

Colossians clothes us before it commands us: "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved" comes first, then put on kindness and patience like garments, taken up again each day.

Patience is long-temperedness modeled on God's own "slow to anger": everyone testing our patience is someone God is being patient with, ourselves included.

Luke 6:27-36 exercises all four fruits under hostile conditions, and gives one reason: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Goodness can be sharp (rebuke, overturned tables) when charity and justice govern the edge and the aim is the other's good; the moment sharpness enjoys itself, it has changed teams.

Isaiah 58: the fast God chooses is mercy. Piety and generosity do not live in separate rooms.

Voices of the Church

St. Cyprian of Carthage · *On the Good of Patience, summary*

Patience is the strength that keeps every other virtue intact under pressure; charity without it does not survive a single injury.

St. Vincent de Paul · *witness of his life and conferences, summary*

His conferences press humility and perseverance in serving the poor, without counting on applause. The lesson of his life: kindness that requires gratitude is commerce, not fruit.

St. Lawrence of Rome · *early tradition via St. Ambrose*

Asked for the Church's treasures, the deacon presented the poor: these are the treasures of the Church. Handed on as the Church received it.

Live It This Week

This week's one thing. One corporal and one spiritual work of mercy before next session.

- Optional: Pray by name each morning for the person who most tests your patience.
- Optional: Give one genuinely anonymous gift.

Memory Verse

Colossians 3:12 · Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience.

Before Next Session

Read Galatians 5:22-23 one more time, and Proverbs 25:28.

Scripture this session: Colossians 3:12-14; Exodus 34:6; Luke 6:27-36; Galatians 5:22; Psalm 145:16; Isaiah 58:6-7 · Catechism: 1832, 2447, 2544-2547