

Love Dares to be Patient!

1st in a series of 6

Welcome to Timberline Church. If you are guest this morning... I want to say a very special welcome and I also just want to let you know... that we never know for sure what might happen here at TL on a Sunday Morning. I work with a Creative Ministries Team and sometimes they push me right up to the edge.

Truth or Dare is a well known party game requiring at least three players and according to Wikipedia it is not a 21st century phenomenon, but rather has been around for several centuries, possibly as early as 1712. Players are given the choice between answering a question 'truthfully' or performing a 'dare'. This game is particularly popular among adolescents and children, and is sometimes used as a forfeit for adults when gambling.

This morning we are beginning a series that is comprised of these two components... a Truth and a Dare... so we thought we would have some fun this morning and begin with a quick game of Truth or Dare...

So... I need 2 volunteers that are at least 10 years of age or older and are willing to take a risk. Now the real game of Truth or Dare can often be embarrassing or dangerous... and this morning we will limit it to... 'Only slightly embarrassing'. Do we have two volunteers?

Truth questions:

What was your most embarrassing moment?

Which animal best represents your personality and why?

What is the greatest number of days that you have gone without showering?

Tell us your most annoying habit.

Would you describe yourself as a patient person, why or why not?

What is the funniest thing that you have gotten into trouble for?

Describe a time when you were impatient.

What is your earliest Childhood memory?

What is your biggest fear?

At what age would you like to have children and why?

What is the hardest subject for you at school?

If you had to change your first name... what would you change it to?

What do you think is your best feature?

If you woke up tomorrow morning and found that you were invisible... what is the first thing you would do?

Dare Challenges:

Stand on one foot and clasp your hands above your head while we count to ten.

Pat your head and rub your tummy.

Show us your best dance move.

Make your funniest face.

Sing a nursery rhythm.

Go out and hug a person in the congregation that you don't know.
Give us all a gorilla face and stance.
Scream your loudest scream.
Try yodeling while the congregation counts to five.
Lick your elbow.
Moon walk... or try to...

Sermon:
The Apostle Paul writes:

Slide #1

1 Timothy 3:14-15 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

These words may seem insignificant at first glance but when we pause... and reread them...we get a glimpse into the awesome responsibility of the Church.... the Church is the pillar and foundation of the truth. And because of this... we bring you this series entitled ...

Slide #2 Truth and Dare!

This may surprise you... but these messages are really about relationships. Our Clarian Call challenges us to 'Rebuild Relationships. Relationships are a beautiful thing! They help us eliminate loneliness, multiply our effectiveness and enjoy life and yet relationships can also cause us great pain.

'Truth & Dare' is a six week series designed to 'Rebuild Relationships' by teaching us to lead our hearts... instead of follow our hearts... in other words, learning to be proactive in our love for others instead of just following our feelings. We live in a culture that whispers... follow your heart. And while it may sound profound and noble and poetic... follow your heart... can often be a license to simply act upon our feelings instead of walking in love.

So each Sunday morning we are going to speak the truth about love and then give you a 'dare' to act upon. The title of the message this morning is...

Slide #3 Love dares to be patient!

Slide #4 Assumption: No one likes to be around an impatient person.

There would be no point to this message if we all loved to be around impatient people. I'm making this assumption that we find it annoying when other people are impatient!

So I want to begin with a question: What is the root of impatience? What is underneath impatience? Why do we become impatient? When we get testy and short with people... why do we do it?

Roving Mic Response:

We threw this question around at our Creative Ministries Team several weeks ago and came up with the following.

Slide #5 The root of impatience:

- 1) We are over committed.
- 2) We have not developed enough margin.
- 3) We have not learned how to deal with the disappointments in our lives.

Slide #6 What is patience? The dictionary defines patience as... the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.

Love dares to be patient and when we put love into practice... it works! Love is life's most powerful motivator and has far greater depth and meaning than most people realize. 'For God so loved the world... that he gave'... it motivates! It always does what is best for others and can empower us to face the greatest of problems. We are born with a lifelong thirst for love. This is why we read about it, sing about it, dance about it, study it, preach it, teach it and talk about it. Our hearts desperately need 'love' like our lungs need oxygen.

Love changes our motivation for living. Love brings meaning to relationships. Love is essential for successful marriages. Love is the fundamental building block of the home. I grew up singing a song called; 'Love At Home' and it went like this:

Slide #7 Verse 1:

There is beauty all around,
When there's love at home;
There is joy in every sound,
When there's love at home;
Peace and plenty here abide,
Smiling sweet on every side,
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
When there's love at home.

Slide #8 Refrain

Love at home, love at home;
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
When there's love at home.

Now some may say that this kind of home or this kind of marriage or this kind of relationship that I just sung about... is impossible, a fairy tale, a figment of our imagination... so this morning I want to plant in each one of us a hope, an ideal to strive for, a love to long for and it begins with patience, 'Love Dares to be Patient'. Patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. Wow! Imagine how 'patience' could radically change the landscape of our homes.

Slide #9 Ephesians 4:1-2 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

The King James translation uses the word 'longsuffering' instead of the word 'patient' and it comes from a compound Greek word that means... long - temper... in other words...accepting delay, trouble or suffering. Let's go to our notes.

Slide #10

1. Patience is Long Tempered.

The truth is that we are called as Christians to not only love like Jesus but also to live like Jesus. When we choose to be Long Tempered... we are identifying with Christ.

Patience brings an internal calm during an external storm. A long line of traffic... long tempered... lines are my greatest 'patience tester'!

Slide #11 Slide # Verse 2 of Love At Home:

In the cottage there is joy,
When there's love at home;
Hate and envy ne'er annoy,
When there's love at home;
Roses bloom beneath our feet,
All the earth's a garden sweet,
Making life a bliss complete,
When there's love at home.

Slide #12

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Once again we have the same Greek word, 'Patient', long tempered. Let's go to our notes.

Slide #13

2. Patience is responding in a positive way to a negative situation.

Love will inspire us to become a patient person. When we choose to be patient, we respond in a positive way to a negative situation.

Danny Townsend told me Friday evening with a smile on his face... my car broke down... but it was a good thing... because it happened in the evening so I could get it taken care of and not be late to work the next morning. That's a positive response to a negative situation.

Slide #14 Verse 3 of Love At Home:

Love becomes a way of life,
When there's love at home;
Sweet, insistent end to strife,
When there's love at home;
Glad submission each one's gift,
Willing pledge to love and lift,
Healing balm for every rift,
When there's love at home.

Slide #15 Psalm 37:7-8 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret — it leads only to evil.

The Hebrew word for 'Patiently' in this verse means to twist or whirl in a circular or spiral manner. Now I'm no Hebrew scholar, but we get the idea here of the circular... not linear... there is no race to the finish line. It's like that little circle on our computer that spins... the wait cursor or the loading icon or the beachball of death.

Let's go to our notes.

Slide #16

3. Patience is the choice to control our emotions rather than allowing our emotions to control us.

Patience is a choice. We can make a decision to control our emotions... to stop and think circular for a while and be still and allow God to work in the situation.

Slide #17 Verse 4 of Love At Home:

Anger cools and pressures cease,
When there's love at home;
Children learn to live in peace,
When there's love at home;
Courage to reach out in grace,
Meet a stranger face to face,

Find a reconciling place,
When there's love at home.

Slide #18 Proverbs 14:29

A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

Here the Hebrew word for 'patient' simply means to be long, drawn out, to lengthen. Like a long boring lecture at school or someone who draws out a story! Let's go to our notes.

Slide #19

4. Patience gives others permission to be human.

Anger almost never makes things better. In fact it usually generates additional problems. Patience stops problems in their tracks. Patience chooses to have a long fuse instead of a quick temper. Patience gives others more time than they deserve to correct the problem. Patience is a deep breath. It clears the air. It stops foolishness from being spayed all over the room.

Slide #20 One of the resources that I'm using in this series is a book called 'The Love Dare' by Steven and Alex Kendrick and in it they write...

Few of us do patience well and none of us do it naturally.

Slide #21 Verse 5 of Love At Home:

There's no question you can't ask,
When there's love at home;
There is strength for any task,
When there's love at home;
Sharing joy in work or play,
Confidence to face the day,
Knowing love will find a way,
When there's love at home.

This morning I want to give you a dare. It's not funny or embarrassing....but it might be dangerous. Write it in on your notes...

Slide #22 Dare for the week: Resolve to be patient by refusing to say anything negative. If the temptation arises... choose to say nothing!

It might be dangerous... because our 'dare to be patient'... may bring on the temptation to 'overreact'!

We can apply this to our spouse, our children, our parents, our best friend, our fiancé... the list goes on!

It's a choice... imagine how the landscape of our life would change... if we would take up this Love Dare.

Slide #23 Prayer & Reflection: Invite the worship band up

Ten Year Reflection: marlin

10 years ago, on May 20th, 2004 we signed... and this property became ours. It was a venture in contrasts between TL Lodge and TL Church:

The Cocktail lounge... became the Sanctuary

The Happy hour... became Power Hour

The Bar... became the Welcoming Center

The Darkness... turned into Light

The End of the road for some people... turned into walking in victory

Indulging... became a Blessing

Gordy Eby:

Gordy, you were the guy who first told us about TL. We were a brand new Church looking for a home. You told us there was this bar/restaurant right behind you that we might be able to rent. You said, we have a lot of neighbors who don't go to church... this would be a great place for you to meet. Later, after we bought the place you said, 'I wasn't figuring you would actually buy the place! What did you mean by that?

Ken Nafziger:

Ken, you were the guy who navigated through the purchase of this. Tell us some of the high lights and some of the challenges.

Phoebe Nafziger:

Phoebe went through file after file of old pictures and found some that helped tell the story. Phoebe, what did you find and tell us about them.

Dawn Waltman:

Dawn, after we purchased the property, you were instrumental in helping us put together a dedication service. In it... we created a rock pile topped with a cross. Tell us what the rocks meant and what the dedication was all about.

Jim Snyder:

Jim, you were the captain of the renovation ship that made it possible for us to move our worship service here in July of 2009 and you participated throughout a number of the phases as we worked on these projects over the last 10 years. What were some of the challenges you faced?

Let's stand together. This morning we want to conclude with a dedication of Phase Three... the expansion of our Café. It has been over a year since the initial vision. It has included,... \$40,000 raised, many volunteers and volunteer hours, hard work, changes, roadblocks, inspectors, satisfaction and breakthroughs. And it has ended in a beautiful room. Let's thank the Lord.

I'd like to close this morning with the same Litany of the Rock Pile that we used almost 10 years ago in the parking lot.

We dedicate this property

For the ministry of the Word,
For the worship of your holy name,
For giving and receiving mutual counsel;
For participation in the symbols of the church.

We dedicate this property

For warning the world of sin and its consequences,
For calling many to cross the line of faith,
For proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ,
For preaching the whole truth about God,

We dedicate this property

For comfort to those who mourn,
For help to those who are tempted,
For strength to those who are weak,
For celebrations with those who are joyful,
We dedicate this property

For studying the Holy Scriptures,
For discerning together the will of God,
For mutual admonition in the ways of the Spirit,
For passing on the faith to succeeding generations,

We dedicate this property

For encouraging one another to compassion and good works,
For planning and performing deeds of love,
For commissioning members to Christian service,
For support of Missionaries around the world.

We dedicate this property

For prayers and songs of praise and witness,
For long term rentals, short term rentals,
For community functions and ministry opportunities,
For all activities prompted by the Holy Spirit,
We dedicate this Property

But not only do we dedicate this property, we also dedicate ourselves

For your cleansing and forgiveness,
For your indwelling and empowering,
For your guidance, and for your service,
Knowing that it is in us you have chosen to live and to build your temple.

Amen and amen... you are dismissed!