Love’s Response to Injuries

**1. How does love respond to injuries?**

A. Patience under *prolonged stress*

B. Calmness under *deliberate provocations*

C. Refusal to reckon up *past wrongs*

D. Kindness instead of *sweet revenge*

Romans 12:17-21; Exodus 23:4-5

**2. How does love for God help us to respond to injuries?** Love for God disposes us—

A. To imitate His *patience and kindness*

Exodus 34:6-7; Romans 2:4-6; Hebrews 12:3

B. To have *lower thoughts* of ourselves

Ephesians 4:1-2; Philippians 2:1-3

C. To see *God’s hand* in our injuries

2 Samuel 16:5-12; Hebrews 12:4-13

D. To value eternal good over *present comfort*

Romans 8:28-39

**Conclusion** A picture of *Christian calmness*

Mark 4:35-41**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. What was the most important or helpful thing you heard in the sermon?

2. What questions did the sermon raise in your mind?

3. What thought from the sermon can you carry with you into situations that you expect to be stressful and difficult?

4. Another biblical strategy for dealing with difficult people is to pray for God to bless them. Think of all the blessings they need and ask God to grant those things (Matthew 5:43-48). This is often more productive than praying, “Lord, make him less mean and thoughtless.”

5. Sometimes Christians feel very guilty over their inability to love difficult people. This is counter-productive because excessive guilt actually hinders our closeness to God, which is what we need if we are to be patient and kind. Trust in the blood of Christ. Thank God that He has forgiven you even for your lack of love. Rest in the grace and goodness of Christ, and you will be better equipped to endure what you must and to change what you can.