

Things to Pray for my church
4. "Praying that my church would love & serve one another"
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Lord, help us to love one another in a way that...

1. ...Is patient & kind

- God's patience in Noah's day (1 Pet 3:20) & the world now (2 Pet 3:9)
- *How has God been patient with you in your life?*
- *Are we less patient with others than we want them to be with us?!*

2. ...Isn't proud or self-seeking

- Jesus had everything, but "made himself nothing" (Philippians 2:7)
- "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:3-4)
- *Has your serving become more about you than God and others?*

3. ...Keeps no record of wrongs

- "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Ps 103:12)
- "You will hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19)
- *Are you holding onto someone's sin? Will you forgive as God has?*

4. ...Rejoices with the truth

- "The truth will set you free" (John 8:32)
- *How has God been transforming you & others in our church?*

5. ...Trusts, hopes, perseveres

- "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)
- *Can we look forward together, continuing to believe that God will transform us?*

Digging Deeper: Personal Reflection or Group Study

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Lord, help us to love one another in a way that...

...Is patient & kind

- In what ways has God been patient with you in your life?
 - How long did it take you to become a Christian?
 - How is he continually patient despite your mistakes?
- Do you find you have a lack of patience with others at church?
 - Why do we want others to be patient with us?
 - How can we see each other as God's treasured possessions?

... Isn't proud or self-seeking

- What sorts of things make us proud in church life?
 - Have you taken your focus off serving out of love?
 - How can remembering Jesus' humility (Philippians 2) help us?

... Keeps no record of wrongs

- Why do we sometimes store up a record of wrongs others have done?
 - How can we deal with hurts or grievances in a godly way?
 - How can remembering God's forgiveness for us help us here?

... Rejoices with the truth

- What truths about God is it important for us to hang on to?
 - What ways has God been transforming you that you can rejoice in?
 - What about for others in our church?

... Trusts, hopes, perseveres

- Do you tend to spend most of your life looking backwards or forwards?
 - Do you sometimes lose heart that God will persevere with you?
 - How can you keep trusting that God has a good plan for our church?