

1 Cor 13:4-7

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

In our daily devotional series on love, for our third thing we will look at concerning love is something that love is not, or should I say does not do.

love does not envy

Envy could also be translated as **jealousy** as well.
So what's the difference?

Jealousy fears to lose what it has; envy is pained at seeing another have.

When you are **jealous**, you think that your spouse or person you are dating will leave you for something or someone better than yourself.

When you **envy** it's looking at others marriages and thinking that you wished you had a husband or wife like that. James, Jesus' half brother, says this about *envy*.

† **James 3:16** *For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*

Who would know better than James, since all his life he would have to watch Jesus doing good all the time, never getting in trouble with His parents and being very popular with the people. Could James have had envy at one time towards Jesus? Could James have wished that He were not like himself and more like his big brother Jesus?

We look at others and think that God loves them more than us because they read their bible more, they pray more, they witness more, they know more scripture than us and so on. Even in marriages we look at what others have and wish that we could be like them.

But what James may have forgotten in his younger years is that God created him just as he was, and God also created James as the half brother of Jesus. Now how cool is that!

In marriages, God created you and your spouse just they way you both are. God does not want everyone to be the same or else He would have created us all to be the same. Now, how boring would that be? What choices would you have for a husband or a wife? You would just say, "*Just give me anyone, because they are all the same anyway.*"

No, that's where the excitement comes in, in a marriage or a relationship, because your husband isn't like your friend's husband, and your wife is not like your friend's wife.

Also if you think about it, if you are **envious** or **jealous** of who someone else has, you are saying that the person you are with is not good enough.

“Why can’t you be more like _____”

Really, do you think Jesus ever said to Peter, *“Why can’t you be more like John, the disciple whom I love?”* (Note: Jesus loved them all the same, John called himself the disciple whom Jesus loved)

It never even crossed Jesus’ mind that Peter should be like John or anyone else. And Jesus would never tell you that you should be more like _____ (you fill in the blank) that would be like Jesus telling you that you are not good enough to love or be loved. That is crazy thinking, because even when you (and I) were in our worst state, Jesus was willing to die for us, just as we were.

† **Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

So to love without envy is being happy with what, or should I say, who, God has given you. God knows that you both need each other and that’s why He brought you two together. Also remember now don’t be shocked you are just as far from perfection as your spouse, the person you are dating, your friend or family member. It’s like the saying I have read, “Don’t judge someone else’s sins because they are different than yours.”

Things may be tough for you right now, but if they were easy all the time, we wouldn’t know to enjoy those good times together. Maybe not the way your friend enjoys his wife or her husband, but rather the way you both can enjoy each other for who you are. Also remember that God loves you for who you are as well, that’s why He created you the way you are.

† **Psalm 139:14** *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*