

## 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.*

Week two in our daily devotional series on Love. For our seventh thing we will look at concerning love, is something else that love does not do.

### ***Love does not seek its own***

*“If you do this for me, then I’ll do that for you.”*

*“I’ll cook a nice dinner so maybe he will finally buy me some flowers.”*

*“I’ll buy her flowers, but she better have dessert as well as a good dinner tonight.”*

Just a few ways that married people or even in our friendships how we treat others. People tend to do for others so they will get something in return, yet they seldom do expecting nothing in return.

*“No flowers, he isn’t getting any tonight.”*

*“The house was a mess when I got home from work, no way am I helping out with the dishes tonight.”*

*“They were 30 minutes late, I’m not going anywhere with them anymore.”*

But in all these cases, and many others that you can probably think of, our main focus is on ourselves and not the ones we say we love.

***Love does not seek its own***, but looks like this.

*“He didn’t buy me flowers, but that’s ok because he works hard and late hours every night to take care of me and the kids. Tonight when the kids are asleep, I think I’ll let him know how much I really appreciate him.”*

*“I bet my wife had a rough day, maybe I’ll order a pizza, rent one of her girlie movies and let her relax while I clean things up for her around the house.”*

*“Instead of going out to dinner with them, I think I’ll cook dinner and bring it over to their house. I know it’s tough for them because they have little ones to take care of and it’s hard enough for them to get ready on time because of their little ones.”*

Love is not, what can I get out of another person, but rather what can I do for him or her. We know Jesus did many things for many people, including healings.

† **Luke 6:10** *And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, "**Stretch out your hand.**" And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.*

Jesus healed this man who had a withered hand. When Jesus said those words, "**Stretch out your hand.**" do you think Jesus was thinking, "He better love Me after doing this for him or else."

No, Jesus did it out of love for this man, not wanting anything in return, just to show him that He loved him.

So this week, think of someone you love, and do something for him or her, and do it without expecting anything in return, not even a thank you. And if you don't even get a thank you, don't get upset or angry because that wouldn't be love, because real love is to continue doing even if you are getting nothing in return.

Just like Jesus did for the whole world on the cross, and how many reject His love. Yet He was still willing to die for us all!

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