

# COMMISSIONED

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Secrets to a Successful Marriage

## **WALK IN SELFLESS LOVE (PT.3): FOUR MORE WAYS LOVE DOESN'T BEHAVE**

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## 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous;  
love does not brag and is not arrogant,

<sup>5</sup>does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own,  
is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,

<sup>6</sup>does not rejoice in unrighteousness,  
but rejoices with the truth;

<sup>7</sup>bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.

# Introduction

## Review

Love is patient: love “suffers long”

Love is kind: love “actively does good”

Love is not jealous: love doesn’t “boil over with jealousy”

Love does not brag: love doesn’t “call attention to self”

Love is not arrogant: love isn’t “puffed up with self-importance”

# 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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# Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly

**Act unbecomingly** can be translated “behave indecently, unseemly, rudely, or shamefully”

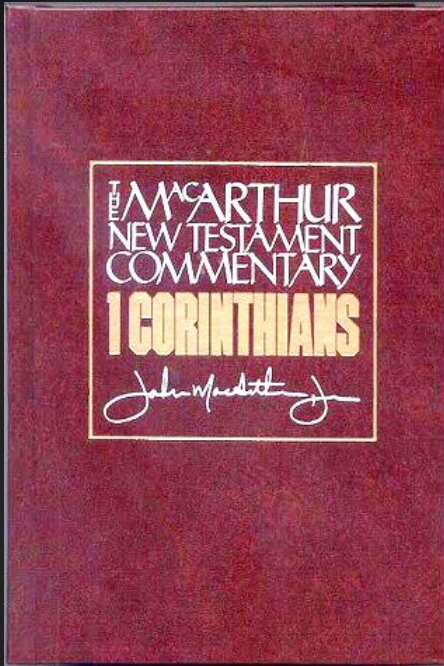
- **1 Corinthians 12:23:** . . . those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,
- **1 Corinthians 11:20–22:** Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper, for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

# Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly

Act unbecomingly or acting rudely is a thoughtless pursuit of your own convenience with a disregard of how other may be affected by your actions.

A person who loves does not act rudely toward others because he knows how unpleasant it is to be the recipient of rude behavior. He considers the needs, desires, and preferences of others and places them above his own.

# Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly



“Love is much more than being gracious and considerate, but it is never less. To the extent that our living is ungracious and inconsiderate it is also unloving and un-Christian. Self-righteous rudeness by Christians can turn people away from Christ before they have a chance to hear the gospel. The messenger can become a barrier to the message. If people do not see the “gentleness of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:1) clearly in us, they are less likely to see Him clearly in the gospel we preach.” — John MacArthur

# What should replace acting unbecomingly?

**Politeness, courtesy, and tact.**

**Matthew 7:12:** “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you.”

# Love Does Not Seek Its Own

**KJV:** seeketh not her own

**ESV:** does not insist on its own way

**HCSB:** is not selfish

**NIV:** is not self-seeking

- Offending other believers in eating meat sacrificed to idols (1 Cor 10:19-33)
- Taking more than needed at the church feast to the detriment of others (1 Cor. 11:18-22)
- Speaking out in the worship service even though it created disorder (14:27-33)

# Love Does Not Seek Its Own

- **Romans 15:2:** Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.
- **Philippians 2:3–4:** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
- **1 Corinthians 10:24:** Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.
- **1 Corinthians 10:32–33:** Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

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# Love Does Not Seek Its Own

Why did Jesus so humble Himself to endure death on the cross?

- **Ephesians 5:2:** . . . walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- **Ephesians 5:25:** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

# What should replace “seeking your own”?

## Sympathy toward others

- **1 Corinthians 12:26:** And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
- **Romans 12:15:** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

# Love is Not Provoked

**Provoked** can be translated “angered, irritated, or exasperated”

- **Acts 17:16:** Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.
- **Proverbs 12:16:** A fool’s anger is known at once, But a prudent man conceals dishonor.
- **Proverbs 29:22:** An angry man stirs up strife, And a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.
- **James 1:19–20: 19:** This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

# Love is Not Provoked

## Expressions of anger

- **Intense anger** – outbursts or yelling
- **Seething anger** – frustration or irritation

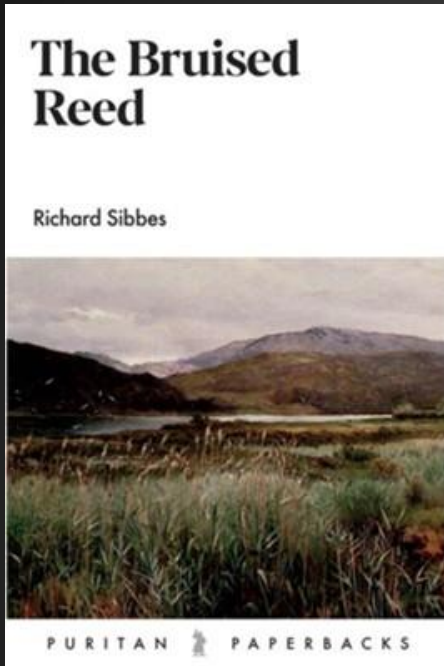
## Where does anger come from?

1. Something does not go your way.
2. You feel like you deserve things to your way. You determine that justice has not been done.
3. You respond in anger because of your displeasure.

# What should replace “being provoked”?

- **Colossians 3:8:** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.
- **Colossians 3:12–13:** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

# Love Is Not Provoked



“It would be a good contest amongst Christians, one to labor to give no offense, and the other to labor to take none. The best men are severe to themselves, tender over others. Yet people should not tire and wear out the patience of others: nor should the weaker so far demand moderation from others as to rely upon their indulgence and so to rest in their own infirmities, with danger to their own souls and scandal to the church.”

— Richard Sibbes

# Love Does Not Take Into Account a Wrong Suffered

**Take into account:** literally “to reckon, to count up, or to keep score”

**ESV:** not resentful

**HCSB:** does not keep a record of wrongs

- **2 Timothy 4:16:** At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

# What should replace “taking into account a wrong suffered”?

## Forgiveness

**2 Corinthians 5:19:** . . . God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

# Living it out

- ✓ Do you act unbecomingly? Are you thoughtless about the needs and even preferences of those around you?
- ✓ Do you seek your own? Or are you unselfishly looking for ways to encourage and strengthen others? What about in your marriage?
- ✓ Are you often provoked to anger? Do your thoughts often go to ways where you feel mistreated or do you more likely to overlook offenses against you?
- ✓ Do you keep a record of wrongs against you, or do you choose to forgive and trust the Lord for justice to be done?

**“Put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity” (Col. 3:14).**