

ASPECTS OF LOVE

Scripture: 1 Cor 13 vs 4 to 7.

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Part 8. The Seventh Aspect

K.J.

*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, **seeketh not her own**, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

N.I.V.

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, **it is not self-seeking**, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

K.J. **Charity seeketh not her own.**

N.I.V. **Love it is not self-seeking.**

The emphasis of this Bible study tonight is on 'self'. The focus is on the individual, and how each one handles love. If this *aspect of love "is not self-seeking"*, it means that it does not seek to advantage the individual at the expense of others, because as the K.J. says, "*it seeketh not her own*". In this study I will try to unfold for us the great blessings that are accrued as a result of the proper application of this *aspect of love*. For love, when it is applied correctly, will benefit not only the individual who has love, but also others who see its unselfish nature operating practically to the benefit of all.

1. The Example.

By giving some thought and consideration to the Lord Jesus, we shall see how the love He has was never self-seeking, it always sought the good of others.

If we turn to **Philippians 2 vs 4 to 8** we read what the apostle Paul has to say regarding the condescension of the Lord Jesus. From this we can learn something of how "*love is not self-seeking*".

*4 Look not every man on his own things,
but every man also on the things of others.*

*5 Let this mind be in you, which was also
in Christ Jesus:*

*6 Who, being in the form of God, thought
it not robbery to be equal with God:*

*7 But made himself of no reputation, and
took upon him the form of a servant, and
was made in the likeness of men:*

*8 And being found in fashion as a man, he
humbled himself, and became obedient
unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Eclectic notes say: "God has acted and given Himself totally, without division, in the Incarnation. He has become not only one of us but even our very selves".

Gill says: "But this was Christ's own act and deed, he willingly assented to it, to lay aside as it were His glory for a while, to have it veiled and hid".

Matthew Henry: "Here we see such motives to self-denying love as nothing else can supply".

The whole purpose of Christ coming to this earth was to destroy the works of the devil, which was causing constant chaos and havoc among humanity. He came to engage in a battle that would result in the defeat of satan, and then bring liberty to people who had been all their life time subject to a power they themselves could not overcome. When Jesus took upon Himself the nature of man, He never once sought anything that would be for self-gain. He had in mind the people He came to seek and to save.

If He had wanted, He could at any moment, have taken total charge of anything, but He never did. The control Jesus had over sin, sickness, and demon possession, was ever present wherever He was. So, when He went from place to place, He was always doing good. He never sought self-gain, He showed us love at its best so others would not be disadvantaged by sin.

Jesus shows us that love, by not being self-seeking, loses nothing but gains all the time. People were very attentive to hear what Jesus had to say. If He was self-centred, self-seeking, and manipulated situations to suit His own ends, He would not have been manifesting the love of God. The love of God is not self-seeking, it does not seek to engage itself in some form of pro active action, that results in being a control freak. The example of Jesus demonstrates that *"love seeks not her own"*.

2. The Explanation

At this point we need to look at the word '**self**' and then the word '**seeking**'.

The Greek word for 'self' is *Eautes*, and is a singular word. If we trace the word back to its roots we will eventually come up with the word '**Auto**' from where we get '**Automobile**' - meaning '**one vehicle**'.

Let us note what it says in **1 Peter 2 v 24**: "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed*".

Notice the words '**Own Self**' that means '**no one else**'. It says that Jesus alone was the sin bearer, and **no one else**. No other person was involved in bearing the sin of the world. One single person died bearing the sin of the world, and that person was Jesus.

When it says that "*love is not self-seeking*", or "*seeks not her own*". We get the idea that this word is referring to one person. Therefore, it has a personal application that is applicable to me. This means that I have to look at this *aspect of love*, and see if I am in any way a self-seeking person. I must examine my motives in life. I must inspect my own life, and see if I am a self-seeking person. In other words, no one else is important only me!

This *aspect of love* is not about what I can do to benefit myself. It is about what can I do to be a blessing to others?

The second word here is '**seeking**' - this "*love is not self-seeking*". The word means. '**seek, in order to find**'. This word '**seek**' can be used a vast number of times and ways, and is related to so many different things. Here are a few instances in which the word can be used:

- Seek fruit on a tree.
- Seek a place of rest.
- Seek in order to find out, by thinking, meditating, reasoning, and questioning.
- Seek the knowledge of God.
- Seek after.
- Seek for.
- Seek to promote the glory of God.

- Seek to win souls.
- Seek something from someone.

The word seek occurs 233 times in the K.J. version of the scriptures.

The word of God tells us **not to seek** certain things, but then it also instructs us what **to seek**.

Here are two verses telling us what we **are not to seek**:

Lev 19 v 31 *“Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God”.*

Numbers 15 v 39 *“Remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring”.*

Here are some verse saying what **to seek**:

Deuteronomy 4 v 29 *“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul”.*

Psalms 27 v 4 *“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple”.*

Psalms 27 v 8 *“When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek”.*

Psalms 34 v 10 *“The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing”.*

Colossians 3 v 1 *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God”.*

1 Peter 3 vs 9 to 11 *“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing”.*

10 *“For Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech”.*

11 *“He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it”.*

These verses show how vital the word ‘seek’ is, and what the positive advantages are to seeking what is good, therefore I will not enlarge on it any further.

Paul in this section about love, stresses that there are clear features about love that stand out very clearly. In this study tonight we have been considering one particular aspect, which is, that *“love is not self seeking”, or “seeketh not her own”.*

3. The Exhortation.

Although Paul is stating a fact here, that *love is not self-seeking*, I believe it is my responsibility to exhort each one to make sure that there is an application of this in their life. I cannot apply this for you, and neither can you employ it on my behalf, it is up to each one of us to make sure we all do what the scripture instructs.

I can encourage you to look at this *aspect of love* and consider it only in the context of what you do. It cannot be looked at in the light of what others do, because this *aspect of love*, highlighted by Paul, is emphasising that which affects one personally. This *aspect of love* is personal and not collective, although in its function throughout the Church, it is collective.

The love of God in my life must not be there to project, or promote me to a position that fixes me higher than what I should be. It is there to enable me to function in life, motivated by the love that commissioned Jesus to go about doing that which was good. He was never *self-seeking*, but came to seek and to save that which was lost. May this love ever be present in us, and operate as it was meant to.