

- ✍ Let's not forget our context here, Paul is in the midst of instruction on Spiritual Gifts and how the Church is one body, a single unit and it must function that way. The Church is like a body which has had all of its many organs and systems transplanted. We are different in culture, traditions, backgrounds, experiences, sexes, ages, professions, talents and gifts. The church is a transplant nightmare! The chances of rejection are high at best! The only way this thing will work is if we remain highly medicated! The single medication that eliminates rejection is God empowered love.
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**1. Our next characteristic of God caliber love is that it does not seek its own (is not selfish).**

- ✓ Frank Sinatra song quote, "And now, the end is near, and so I face the final curtain. My friend, I'll say it clear, I'll state my case, of which I'm certain. I've lived a life that's full, I traveled each and every highway, and more, much more than this I did it my way. A classic and classically true of our human existence, "My Way" has been the nemesis of humanity. Think of all the things that would cease if there were not selfish people, it's the motivation behind so many sins: starvation, fuel shortages, pollution, divorce, wars, etc. Love is not selfish, it is, not only, not envious about what does not belong to it, it is prepared to give up what its entitled to!

**2. Selfishness was the primary problem in the Corinthian church:**

- ✓ They were rude to others at their "love feasts", they took each other to court, they used Spiritual gifts for selfish ends, and divided themselves based on favorites among their leaders. Selfishness was the very first problem in the early church (Ananias and Saphira). So, when the plague of selfishness rears its ugly head in our lives what do we do?

- 1) Displacement, a ship displaces a certain amount of water based on its weight and mass, likewise the Word of God displaces a certain amount of selfishness based on its weight and mass in your life. 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:16 and, John 15:13, this is how love acts. Love doesn't seek its own but is willing to give up what rightfully belongs to it. A sense of entitlement, one of the greatest lies of the human existence. What was Jesus entitled to? All the rights and privileges of God but He laid them all down. In the Model Prayer there is not a single personal pronoun in the whole thing! ("our Father", "Give us", "Forgive us", "lead us", "Deliver us" see also 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:24, Romans 12:10, Philippians 2:4, Psalm 119:36-37).

- 2) Repent, recognize your sin, turn from it and travel through this life God's way.

**3. Love is not easily provoked or angered.**

- ✓ Anger is a part of our nature and in case you would beg to differ, just go down to the nursery and pull the bottle out of the mouth of a hungry infant. Not all anger is bad, Jesus was angry on two different occasions clearing the temple. Righteous indignation is just that, "righteous". Our culture has started a movement and coined a phrase called "anger management." Anger is more something we would do better ridding ourselves of rather than managing

**4. Let's look at what Scripture says about our anger:**

- ✓ What it makes you do: Proverbs 14:17. The worse place to be is beside yourself! What it does to you: Proverbs 19:19. What it turns you into: Proverbs 29:11. What it keeps you from: James 1:19-20. Who it lets in: Ephesians 4:26-27. Who it grieves away: Ephesians 4:30-31.

**5. How do we curb our volatility?**

- 1) Be careful who you associate with, anger is contagious, Proverbs 22:24-25; Psalm 1, blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.
  - 2) Deal with anger quickly, Ephesians 4:26.
  - 3) Keep yourself full so that when provoked it's not anger that it spills over. A full soul is slow to boil! Being filled with love means being filled with Him.
  - 4) Raise your walk. The higher you are/the closer the walk you have with the Lord the more it will take to make you boil.
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