



## Chapter Seven — *Love Does Not Insist on Its Own Way* (1 Cor. 13:5)

“[Love] does not insist on its own way.” — 1 Corinthians 13:5

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### **Big Idea**

Love releases the need to win and chooses selflessness instead.

Paul now brings us face-to-face with one of the most challenging truths about love: **love does not insist on its own way**. God’s kind of love is not driven by personal preference, control, or the desire to be right. Instead, it willingly lays down its own agenda for the good of others.

Selfishness turns relationships into competitions. Love turns them into partnerships.

Insisting on our own way says, *My needs come first*.  
Love says, *Your well-being matters to me*.

Jesus gives us the ultimate example. Though fully God, He chose humility over entitlement, service over status, and sacrifice over self-preservation. What looked like loss to the world became salvation for us. His willingness to surrender His rights shows us what love truly looks like.

When we stop fighting to get our way, something beautiful happens: peace grows, trust deepens, and relationships begin to heal. Letting go of “winning” often brings more joy than getting what we wanted ever could.

Love doesn’t demand control—it offers compassion.  
Love doesn’t cling to rights—it embraces responsibility.  
Love doesn’t insist—it serves.

This kind of love is only possible because God first loved us this way. His security frees us to release self-interest and care deeply for others.

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## Practical Takeaways

- Insisting on your own way creates distance; surrendering builds connection.
- Selfishness poisons relationships; selflessness strengthens them.
- Love values unity over victory.
- Love listens more than it argues.
- Love considers others before acting.

Ways to practice love without insisting on your own way:

- Ask, *What's best for them?* before making decisions.
- Release the need to always be right.
- Take the long view—protect relationships over short-term wins.
- Celebrate when others' preferences prevail.
- Remember Christ's example of humble surrender.

Choosing love often means choosing to yield—and discovering that yielding brings freedom.

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it so easy to seek to have our own way? Where does this first show up in life?
2. What does selfishness do in relationships?
3. How does this description of love speak to you about God's love for you?
4. How does reflecting on Jesus' unselfishness help you adopt an attitude of selflessness with others?
5. In what situations do you feel most tempted to "win" instead of love—and what would surrender look like in those moments?
6. Who is one person you can intentionally put first this week, even if it costs you convenience or

