

Love Is Not Arrogant I Corinthians 13:4

Introduction:

- I. We have to this point discussed three things that are characteristic of love:
 - a. Patience, kindness, and absence of jealousy.
 - b. Today we will continue the series by talking about another characteristic of love.
 - i. “Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.”
- II. Definitions
 - a. To vaunt oneself – To heap praise on oneself.
 - b. To be puffed up – To think more highly of oneself than one ought to think.
 - i. We will talk about both of these today, because they have a strongly connected meaning. Both of these involve a great amount of arrogance. Love does not do these things.

Discussion:

- I. Love does not heap praise on itself.
 - a. One of the quickest ways to lose friends and drive other people away is to praise oneself often and undeservedly.
 - i. Genesis 37 – Joseph was given God’s spirit more than any of his brothers, so that he had (and interpreted) prophetic dreams. His father loved him more than his other brothers, and so they were jealous of him.
 - 1. This brings us to an interesting finding in I Corinthians 13.
 - a. Most of these definitions of love are reciprocal.
 - i. Be kind, be patient (one gives, the other receives action).
 - ii. Do not be arrogant or jealous (one boasts, the other wishes for the ability to boast).
 - b. Many people are quick to point out the failings of such an attitude.
 - i. “I would be kind if others were kind to me.”
 - ii. “Doing this will just make other people run all over you.”
 - c. As Christians, we are called to break the cycle of evil.
 - i. Proverbs 15:1 – A soft answer turns away wrath.
 - 1. This does not say that speaking calmly will prevent anger. It only says that it can help diffuse an angry situation that has started!
 - ii. When we have something against a brother,
 - 1. Mt. 18:15ff. – We go to them to fix it.
 - iii. When someone has something against us,
 - 1. Mt. 5:23ff. – We go to them to fix it.
 - d. It does not matter *whose fault it is*; It is your responsibility to break the cycle of anger, evil, jealousy, impatience, etc.

- II. Love does not think more highly of itself than it ought to think.
 - a. Romans 12:3
 - i. Let every man think “soberly, as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.”
 - 1. Just like last week’s lesson, self-control is a necessary part of this characteristic of love.
 - 2. “Soberly” – to be prudent, with focus on self-control (reasonable).
 - a. This tells us that thinking correctly about oneself requires a close watch and self-control.
 - 3. As God has dealt to every man...
 - a. Unlike Jacob was with Joseph, God has not given me, you, or anyone else a higher spot on his list of people he loves.
 - i. Mt. 5:45
 - ii. James 2:1-6; 7-10
 - iii. Acts 17:26 – from one blood, everyone was created.
 - iv. I Corinthians 6:7-8 – It is better to accept when others wrong you than to fight over who is right!
 - b. I Corinthians 10:11-12 – You think you stand, but you are about to fall!
 - i. Proverbs 16:18 – This kind of thinking leads to a premature fall from power.
 - ii. Luke 14:8-11
 - 1. Self-exaltation leads to humiliation.
 - a. It leads to hostility and jealousy (Genesis 37).
 - b. It leads to a lack of concern in the well-being of others (I Cor. 6:8).
 - c. This goes beyond bragging and boasting. It includes things that we do that we know might be offensive to other people.
 - i. Sure, we “know” that there is nothing wrong with it. Of course, there’s nothing against it in the Bible. I understand that people just have a misunderstanding about it. Yet, that does not mean that you can still do it!
 - 1. I Corinthians 8:1 – Knowledge puffs up, love builds up.
 - a. What words are curse words?
 - b. How much drinking is too much?
 - c. I can go to a bar, club, or dance hall without sinning. Why shouldn’t I go?
 - 2. Love asks, “How will this affect my brothers and sisters in the church? How will this affect my influence? What can I do that will best take care of my brothers and my influence?”
 - a. I Corinthians 10:23-24 – *Expedient* means “What is best for everyone.”
 - i. If it does not help others, encourage, support, or bring some other benefit to another, then it is not expedient. Paul commands us to do what is for the best of others!
 - ii. cf. Ephesians 4:29 – Only say what will help a situation. Act only for the benefit of others.