

- ✚ We've seen that love is the theme of Scripture, it cannot be understood fully without understanding love. The two greatest commands concerning love is loving God and each other "on these all hang all the rest of Law and Prophets." Love, Jesus said, was how people would know that we are His disciples. Love cannot be legislated, really can't be taught; can only be received and that from only "One Source". Love is a function of knowing and abiding in Him, "Abide in Me and I in You and you will bear much fruit...." What is that fruit? **"The Fruit of the Spirit is Love."**
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**1. Today, we are going to see two more ways that love doesn't act. Love doesn't act rudely (unbecomingly). "It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged." 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:5.**

- ✓ God's desired plan for our lives is that we be conformed to the image of His Son Who acted 100% of the time in perfect love. Consider a time in His ministry in which Jesus demonstrated that love does not act rudely and see what we can learn. In John 4:3-9 Jesus according to thinking of that day and our day was the woman at the watering well superior (aside from the fact that He was God) superior sex, race, knowledge, morality—He had plenty of reasons to be short and rude with her.
  - 1) He takes time with her, not the only time He does something like this in fact He did this with children, the woman with the issue of blood, the centurion, the sick, and the demon possessed. Jesus takes time with people that no one else would have would give the time of day. Why? It would have been rude to do otherwise, and love does act that way! Rudeness raises its ugly head most often when we feel people are imposing on our time or we feel that they are beneath us. Would you ever be rude to Jesus? "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'" Matthew 25:45.
  - 2) He puts her at ease, John 4:10-14. Jesus is the epitome of holiness and yet people who were the epitome of sin were at ease with Him (woman caught in adultery, leprous, gentiles, etc.). Jesus came for the spiritually sick, He sent us to minister to the same. If we have a problem with the spiritually sick, we have a problem!!
  - 3) Jesus extends grace not judgment, John 4:15 – 26. Notice how lovingly He deals with her sin and ignorance. We sometimes have an overwhelming desire to correct people, it's not that we choose to not correct the behavior but that we do it in the right spirit. "Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path." Galatians 6:1, "speak the truth" but, "in love." What do we know when love doesn't operate us: "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal."

**2. Pride and boasting, love doesn't act that way.**

- ✓ Greek for pride or arrogance is of the same root as the Greek for bellows = windbag. Bragging or boasting is like the exhaust from a windbag. Pride and arrogance hold the prestigious position of being the first sin to be committed in all of God's creation. One of the big 7: "There are six things the LORD hates no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, Proverbs 6:16-17, not that God doesn't hate all sin, but these are the most insidious outcroppings of man's rebellion. Pride is dishonorable "Only disease known to man that makes everybody sick except the one who has it." Love is not interested in anyone knowing its accomplishments but uses them to benefit others. Love is always looking for the opportunity to lift others up not self. Pride divides us –keeps us from forgiving and reconciling. Love unites us.

**3. How do we let love increase in our lives and keep pride at bay?**

- ✓ James 4:10, the simple answer is humility. Make it a practice to acknowledge your own fallibility. Try this phrase: "Hey, I just might be wrong." As they say, there are two facts that will keep us out of a lot of trouble: one, there is a God; two, we are not Him. Take a true view of your gifts. These are liabilities not assets if you don't use them for others. Beware of flattery and praise, Proverbs 27:21.

**Adlai Stevenson, "Flattery is okay as long as you don't inhale." Seek to be like Jesus, Philippians 2:11. "What is God's plan and will for my life?," this is it! Are you seeking God's will for your life?**

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