

## #4 PROPERTIES OF LOVE: IS NOT RUDE (1 Cor 13:4-7)

### A. There are three valid reasons to study “Love”.

1. God is love (1 John 4:8, 16), it covers a multitude of sins (1 Pet 4:8), & it identifies a disciple (John 13:35).

### B. People often mistake rhetoric for religion: preachers, celebrities, politicians.

1. But Jesus said that we will only enter the kingdom of heaven by doing the will of the Father in heaven (Matt 7:21).
2. The will of the Father is to love the Lord your God..., & to love your neighbor..., & to love your enemies (Matt 22:37-39; Matt 5:44; Lk 6:27, 35; Rom 12:20).

[So as we study “love” we are identifying the birthmark of every Christian, the traits that demonstrate one to be in family of God.]

## I. LOVE DOES NOT BEHAVE RUDELY

### A. “Love doth not behave itself unseemly” (KJV).

1. Aschemoneo (as-kay-mon-eh'-o); to be (i.e. act) unbecoming; to behave improperly toward someone (cf. 1 Cor 7:36).
2. The English word stems from the Latin *rudis* meaning: rough, raw, wild, & untilled.
  - a. A person who is rude pays little attention to decorum (what is proper in manners & conduct).

### B. Rudeness is demonstrated in many ways.

1. In the way we drive our cars, stand in line, & speak to a salesperson.

### C. How was rudeness depicted in the context of 1 Corinthians?

1. Some were demanding justice (1 Cor 6:1-8) – “I’ll show him, I have the law on MY side.”
2. Some were shaming the poor (1 Cor 11:17-22) – “Look what WE brought to the church picnic.”
3. Some were contentious (quarrelsome) & causing division (1 Cor 1:11; 3:3-4) – “If I have MY way, we’re going to support this preacher.”

D. **Another characteristic** of rudeness is bluntness.

1. Some are very good at the quick comeback, & the art of debate (getting to the point).
2. But we can be so blunt that we are rude, & we can rationalize it by saying, “I’m standing for truth!” “I’m concerned for his soul.”

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**Col 4:6** – *Let your speech always be with grace*, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

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- a. The word “grace” is *charis* in the Greek: “*that which bestows or occasions pleasure, delight, or causes favorable regard*” (Vine).
- b. We’ll never turn a soul from sin by speaking harshly & in a way that degrades him.
- c. There are 3 tests that should be applied to everything we say: Is it pure? Will it edify? Can I say it with grace?

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**Eph 4:29** – Let *no corrupt word* proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary *edification*, that it may impart *grace* to the hearers.

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E. **Where does rudeness** come from; what is its genesis? Birth (genetic) or Environment?

1. The home & family is where love is supposed to be nurtured for its presentation into the world.
2. But often, the home is where people are the most rude & the least courteous & polite.

- a. For several years, people learned to laugh at the rudeness depicted in the family centered sitcoms (All In The Family, Simpsons, Roseanne).
- b. People didn't think the rudeness was having an affect on them, but obviously it did, as rude speech & behavior is now commonplace.

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**1 Pet 5:5** – Likewise *you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders*. Yes, *all of you be submissive to one another*, & be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

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[It's hard to be rude to someone you have submitted to.

Think back to your childhood, when you were rude to a parent, teacher or someone who had authority over you. You probably said to yourself, "Oh no, I'm going to get in trouble for saying (or doing) that." – *Your conscience so offended you that you felt a heavy burden of guilt & fear of punishment for a long time.*

That is the thought process we ought to have when we are rude. But ideally, *before* we speak or act rudely we should think, "No, I don't want to live with the guilt of being rude; I know that I am to love that person."]

F. [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#) is a portrait of Jesus; it depicts the individual characteristics of the Son of God.

1. Jesus was not rude, & He even protected others from the contempt of rude people ([Lk 7:36-48](#)).
2. Jesus didn't condone her sins; He rewarded her great love with His forgiveness, & then He said, "*To whom little is forgiven, the same loves little*" ([7:47](#)).

- a. In other words, "Simon, you have so little need of forgiveness (or so you think), how can you love anyone more than just a little?"
- b. Since Simon could only love "a little", then there must have been "a lot" of occasions for him to be rude.

[So love will cancel out rudeness & open the door to patience, kindness (we have already studied) & forgiveness.

## CLOSING

- A. **In contrast to rudeness**, love is polite (shows good manners; tactful) & **courteous** (considerate of others).

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**1 Pet 3:8-10** – Finally, ***all of you be of one mind, having compassion*** [a fellow feeling (sympathetic); suffering or feeling the like with another] ***for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted*** [well compassioned: the humane quality of understanding the suffering of others & wanting to do something about it], ***be courteous*** [humble minded]; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For "He who would love life & see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, & his lips from speaking deceit.

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1. Rather than saying, "love is not rude", we could say "love minds its manners & behaves graciously toward others!"

- B. **When love is absent** among human beings, what is the result?

1. Hate? No, sin is the result of an absence of love.

2. Because any time we act toward others without the love Paul described, we have sinned.

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No one would confess to having hatred for others by imposing an idea that divides the church, nevertheless he has sinned because he did not love his brethren enough to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (**Eph 4:3**).

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3. We cannot be holy as God is holy until we practice love as God is love (**1 Pet 1:15-16**).
4. Holiness is more than just saying the right words, "Lord, Lord".
  - a. Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another ... as I have loved you" (**John 13:35, 34**).

Love does not behave itself rudely!

We can be rude toward God by the way we respond to the gift He has offered to us in Christ (**Rom 6:23; Eph 1:3**)

**GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:**

**Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible:** Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

**Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior:** Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

**Repent of your sins:** Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

**Confess your faith in Jesus Christ:** Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

**Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins:** Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

**Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge:** Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48