

***The Body of Christ, Spiritual Gifts, and Spiritual Maturity, Part 10***  
***“Love is not Arrogant”***  
**1 Corinthians 13:4**

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**The Apostle’s Teaching on the Characteristics of Love – Overview:**

1. Everything in these verses is behavioral.
2. Paul is interested to apply these things especially in relationships in the body of Christ.
3. Paul begins his portrait of love as it shows itself amidst the sins and offenses of a fallen world.
4. “Love” – Gk. AGAPE

***Arrogance snuffs out love; love dispels arrogance!***

**1. Arrogance Snuffs out Love!**

*“Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up.”*

**(1) Definitions:**

- “parading oneself” Gk: PERPEREUOMAI (only here in the NT)  
Elsewhere has overtones of ostentatious bragging    ESV: “does not boast”
  
- “puffed up” Gk: PHUSIOUTAI → PHUSIO from PHUSIS: “bellows”  
cf. ESV: “is not arrogant”

**(2) The immediate reference: 12:21**

*“And the eye cannot say to the hand,  
‘I have no need of you,’;  
nor again the head to the feet,  
‘I have no need of you.’ ”*

**- What is operating here?**

- Pride and self-sufficiency!
- Failure to appreciate that the body consists of all of its members!
- Failure to recognize that what I have – all that I have – I have received from God!
- A despising of my brother and his gifts!

**- What are the consequences?**

**-1- I contribute to schism in the body**

- Damaging fellowship - I can’t really listen to others if I’m always talking about myself!
- Discouraging my brothers and sisters in the use of their gifts.

**-2- I am unable to benefit fully from the gifts of my brothers and sisters**

- I like to be served (!), but I do not fully appreciate the service I receive!

**-3- My own effectiveness and fruitfulness in service is greatly diminished.**

- **Other consequences seen at Corinth** “puffed up” occurs in all of these contexts

-1- 4:6-13 Puffed up with my own knowledge, gifts, I may be self-defiant, unteachable!

-2- 5:1-2 Puffed up with my own knowledge, gifts, I may be oblivious to more weighty issues of purity and holiness!

-3- 8:1-13 Puffed up with my own knowledge, and glorying in my “liberty,”  
I may harm my brother!

**2. Love Dispels Arrogance!**

**The Corresponding Positive Operation of Love:**

- (1) I am kept from arrogance – and am enabled to love my brother – when I remember that my gifts are entirely from God!
  
- (2) I am kept from arrogance – and am enabled to love my brother – when I measure my spiritual maturity, not by my gifts, but by the fruit of the Spirit.
  
- (3) I am kept from arrogance – and am enabled to love my brother – when I bear in mind that the Spirit of God dwells in him and is working through him.
  
- (4) I am kept from arrogance – and am enabled to love my brother – when I remember that the One who is the *source* of all gifts emptied Himself and became a servant for my sake!

**Further Application**