The Body of Christ, Spiritual Gifts, and Spiritual Maturity, Part 11
"Love does not Behave Rudely"
1 Corinthians 13:5

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
5. These things are impossible to the flesh! cf. Gal. 5:16-26

Rude conduct betrays an absence of love; love dispels rudeness!

1. Rude Conduct betrays an absence of Love! *"love...does not behave rudely"*

(1) Definition:

-"behave rudely" Gk: ASKEMONEI **A + SKEMA**
"against" + "form" **contrary to the form**

- Contrary to the form, fashion, or manner that is proper

- NASV: "does not act unbecomingly" **KJV:** "does not behave itself unseemly"

- To act shamefully, callously, with indifference toward a brother or sister
- The word is colored by its particular context

- Only other NT use: 1 Cor. 7:36: Used with reference a father who may think he is *behaving improperly* toward his daughter if he does not allow her to marry

- i.e., The father does not want to be *inconsiderate of her interests or cares or happiness*.

(2) The immediate context:

- 13:4 When pride puffs up the heart, *"love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely"*
rude conduct will usually and quite naturally follow.

- When I am taken up with myself, interested in "talking myself up", or am self-absorbed, I can be quite oblivious to how I am affecting others by my speech or conduct.

- 12:21 *"And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' "*

- *"I have no need of you!"* – A quite rude and callous statement!
Paul puts it in the mouth of one who is impressed with his own gifts and importance.

- When I am taken up with my own agenda (my own importance, gifts), I will communicate to others this sort of thing.

- When I am taken up with my own agenda, I will in some significant measure be oblivious to body life.

2. Love dispels Rude Conduct!

The Corresponding <u>Positive</u> <u>Operation</u> of Love:

(1) Love is *sensitive* to others! Sensitive to their needs, circumstances, and feelings!

(2) Love is careful to *"think on the things of others,"* not taken up with one's own things.

(3) In this way love *serves and cares for* a brother or sister:

- Love is attuned to the feelings and sensibilities of another
- Love cares enough about a brother or sister to know them, and so to know their needs and sensibilities

(4) For these reasons, love is *attuned to body life:*

Love sees every member as vital!
Love sees every gift as precious!
Love sees every life as precious!

Further Application