**"Love is Not Arrogant or Rude"**1 Corinthians 13:4c-5a

**Good Morning Beloved,**

* Different people have different heroes.
  + Some people want to be astronauts… some attorneys… some want to be archeologist (Indiana Jones).
    - If you were looking to be a Biblical Archeologist… one of the hot spots is
      * “Tel Rehov is a ten-hectare mound located in the Beit Shean Valley in northern Israel, with excavations focusing on the site’s Iron IIA (10th to 9th centuries BCE) occupation.”[[1]](#footnote-1)
        + And if you are thinking you need a whip… a fedora… and a special theme music…
    - In that space you will find… a large-scale apiary.[[2]](#footnote-2)
      * That’s right 180 hives for bees.
        + Made of clay and straw… there were about 14 gallons in each hive that had a removable lid for easy access.

Archeologist…The type of bees cultivated at Rehov is noteworthy. Morphometric analyses indicate that the hives were occupied by Anatolian honeybees (Apis mellifera anatoliaca) and not the local Syrian subspecies (Apis mellifera syriaca).

* + - What does that prove?
      * If you’ve ever heard the phrase… “a land flowing with milk and honey” is used to describe the abundance of the land of Canaan (Exod. 3:8, 17; 33:3; Lev. 20:24; Num. 13:27; 14:8; Deut. 6:3).
        + For the longest time…it thought that the “honey” (dəbaš) referred not to honey from bees but to a syrup made from pressed dates or figs.
      * BUT NOW… because of the heroic works of archeologists… the excavation of beehives…
        + The national academy of sciences notes… “Consequently, it is now safe to say that Israel was indeed a land of honey.”
      * That is as good as it gets for jokes with archeologists.
* Different people have different heroes… but to be truly heroic… the Bible says…
  + Pro. 16:24 - *Gracious words are like a honeycomb,  
        sweetness to the soul and health to the body.*
    - Or to say it another way… *love is not arrogant or rude*.

Reading of God’s Word

***13****If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.****2****And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.****3****If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

***4****Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant****5****or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;****6****it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.****7****Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

***8****Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.****9****For we know in part and we prophesy in part,****10****but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.****11****When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.****12****For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

***13****So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

**Preaching God’s Word**

1. The generosity of our foot-washing servant (John 13:1-11)
   1. "Love is not arrogant or rude."
      1. What is arrogance?
         1. It is the reason why people “vaunteth themselves ahead of others”… it is being puffed-up… inflated… proud… even being ferocious with others.[[3]](#footnote-3)
         2. That unspoken mindset is destroying the community in Corinth.
            1. 1 Cor. 4:6 - *I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.*

Service for God did not necessarily mean love.

* + - * 1. 1 Cor. 8:1 - *Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.*

Knowledge of truth did not necessarily mean love.

* + - 1. The original word is pretty funny….
         1. It means “acting naturally”… or to say it differently…

If someone says… be yourself… the way we naturally are is… arrogant.

Life is all about me.

* + - * 1. Story… Bible speaker was late getting to his hotel in the middle of the night.

Rings the bell… no answer… slings his wet clothes around…

The person working the front desk comes out of the bathroom… “may I help you, please.”

And the conference speaker lays into him…. Wet… tired… late… where were you?!!

Employee… I’d be glad to help sir. What is your name?

Man gives his name.

Employee… Dr. So-and-so, I just became a Christian! It is a great honor to meet you.

* + - 1. Arrogance…. Acting naturally… does more than failing to honor one another…. It fails to honor our God.[[4]](#footnote-4)
         1. Say it another way…[[5]](#footnote-5)

Arrogance – puts others down

Love – builds others up.

* + 1. What is rude?
       1. Behave unseemly… disgrace others or yourself… not to pass the bounds of decency[[6]](#footnote-6)… Image of being “bloated”[[7]](#footnote-7)… over-inflated like a balloon with too much hot-air.
          1. Earlier, Paul told men not to act indecently or dishonorably toward the young women they were engaged with (7:36).

D. A. Carson[[8]](#footnote-8) – A young man dates a girl all through college… wins her affections… takes her to the place where they first met… and as the sun sets… he goes down on a knee…

Ties his shoe… then says…

I think we should see other people and I’ve been sure that you’re not the girl for me for years…

I just don’t like being alone… but I think I founds somebody else who will make me happier than you ever could.

* + - * 1. POINT: Love does not behave improperly toward others.

Now the idea is calling on all people to act with respect toward the Bride of Christ.

Carson – “you can spot a gentleman not by the way he addresses his king but by the way he addresses his servants.”

* + 1. Transition: For the girl who was dumped… we could understand how that night left an impression…
       1. He was arrogant… he was rude.
          1. During the final week of his life… Jesus left a profound impression of his disciples by showing them what it means that love is not arrogant or rude.
  1. What does that (a love that is not arrogant or rude) look like?
     1. ***13****Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.****2****During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,****3****Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,****4****rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.*
        1. He is the Son of God…
           1. The man with the greatest purpose in the history of mankind…

His hour of the cross

* + - * 1. With the greatest love the world has ever seen…

His atoning sacrifice for sinners

* + - * 1. Against the great enemy

The Devil

* + - * 1. For the greatest reason

The glory of God

* + - 1. He is not puffed up in arrogance…
         1. He did something even a servant would have despised doing…

He puts on an apron… and washes… feet.

* + 1. ***5****Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.****6****He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?”*
       1. It is right here that Christianity stands out…
          1. Love is not arrogant or rude

There are several books that teach manners… and etiquette so as not to cause offense.

The thought there is how to cultivate a skill.

* + - * 1. Christianity is more than a skill.

Here Jesus is teaching and showing the grace that is necessary for love to be genuine.

He is the one person who could be taking the first position… but with the towel he takes the last.

* + - 1. It is far more than just doing a job that no one else wanted to do… the foot-washing is in view of the cross.
         1. ESV Study Bible – “Here the footwashing symbolizes the washing necessary for the forgiveness of sins, in anticipation of Jesus’ death for his people, by which sins are washed away.”
    1. ***7****Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”****8****Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.”****9****Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”****10****Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.”****11****For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”*
       1. What a combination of disciples:
          1. Jesus washes Judas’ feet.

The man who would betray him.

* + - * 1. Jesus washes Peter’s feet.

The man who keeps telling his master what to do.

* + - 1. The cleansing blood of Jesus is definitive for all time…
         1. And every present daily for all transgression.

1. The courtesy of serving with a towel and a basin (John 13:12-15)
   1. ***12****When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?****13****You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.****14****If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.****15****For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.****16****Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.*
      1. What disciple could be arrogant in that moment?
         1. What disciple could be rude in that space?
            1. Those brought into a relationship with God know that it only comes because of the stooping and saving work of Jesus Christ.

He is not only the foot-washer we are to trust, but the model we are to follow.

* + 1. The problem with arrogance… is that it puff us up to be bigger than we are.
       1. The foot-washing Teacher… the crucified LORD… he pours out His Spirit so that we are the right size.
          1. Psalm 131 - *O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;  
                 my eyes are not raised too high;  
             I do not occupy myself with things  
                 too great and too marvelous for me.****2****But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
                 like a weaned child with its mother;  
                 like a weaned child is my soul within me.*

Arrogance stops prayers (James 4)… but here is a prayer that flows from faith in humility.

* + 1. The problem with rudeness… is that it tries to make life rotate about a personal agenda.
       1. The carrot (I behave courteously) to get what I want… and the stick (I act tactfully) to avoid getting what I don’t want…
          1. Are shown to be not as influential as the towel and the basin.
    2. As the scriptures say…
       1. 1 John 4:18 - ***8****There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.****19****We love because he first loved us.****20****If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.****21****And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

1. Conclusion
   1. Honey is good…. There are archeologist on the other side of the world studying old honey hives right now.
      1. But If you want to know something that is truly heroic.
         1. Listen to the man who had his feet washed…
            1. 1 Peter 2:1ff - ***2****So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.*

Don’t be puffed up… or dishonor others.

* + - * 1. ***2****Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—*

In view of the foot-washing, cross-bearin teacher and Savior…

Live with the right size…

You are clean… forgiven…

Love with the right spirit…

You are called to love.

* + - * 1. ***3****if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone and King, reveals the love of God that is full of grace and truth…

* 1. So that we this day would taste that the LORD is good and live for him.
     1. For love is not arrogant or rude.

1. *The State of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*, edited by H. H. Hardy, and R., M. Daniel Carroll, Baker Academic, 2024.*ProQuest Ebook Central*, https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.theoref.idm.oclc.org/lib/dtl/detail.action?docID=31191936. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Mazar, Amihai, and Nava Panitz-Cohen. 2007. “It Is the Land of Honey: Beekeeping at Tel Reḥov.” *Near Eastern Archaeology* 70 (4): 202–19. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. John Calvin, *First Epistle to the Corinthians, 422. – “*Paul, therefore, ascribes to love moderation, and declares that it is a bridle to restrain men, that they may not break forth into ferocity, but may live together in a peaceable and orderly manner. He adds, farther, that it has nothing of the nature of pride.” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Kistermaker, *1 Corinthians*, 459. - “Without love knowledge degenerates into obnoxious arrogance; with love it is a valuable asset. Arrogance is inflated selfishness, while love is genuine humility”. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. David Jackman, *Let’s Study 1 Corinthians*, 217. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Henry, 574. – “it does nothing indecorous, nothing that in the common account of men is base or vile. It does nothing out of place or time; but behaves towards all men as becomes their rank and ours, with reverence and respect to superiors, with kindness and condescension to inferiors, with courtesy and good-will towards all men. It is not for breaking order, confounding ranks bringing all men on a level; but for keeping up the distinction God has made between men, and acting decently in its own station, and minding its own business, without taking upon it to mend, or censure, or despise, the conduct of others. Charity will do nothing that misbecomes it.” [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Matthew Henry, Commentary on the Whole Bible, Vol. VI, 574. - ”Love is not bloated with self-conceit, does not swell upon its acquisitions, nor arrogate to itself that honour, or power, or respect, which does not belong to it. It is not insolent, apt to despise others, or trample on them, or treat them with contempt and scorn. Those who are animated with a principle of true brotherly love will in honour prefer one another.” [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. D.A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit: A Theological Exposition of 1 Cor. 12-14, 80.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-8)