

Love is Not Unlovely
2017-07-16

1 Corinthians 13:4-5a

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

State of Maine Speaker of the House Sara Gideon on removing fellow Dem from committees:

“While our system of government demands vigorous debate, too often today our political discourse, on both sides of the aisle, strays into personal attacks and vulgar language, whether on social media, in the press or in the hallways of the State House.

“As a result of his actions, I let Rep. Hamann know last night that I would be removing him from his service on all Committees. I hope this consequence sends a clear signal to all members of the House of Representatives that they are expected to conduct themselves with respect at all times and in all media.”

- Rudeness: we know when we experience/see it and yet few think they're rude. Love is not rude (not act unbecomingly, improperly, unseemly, disgracefully, boorish, behave badly)...Love is not unlovely.

- Greek for rude: "is not shapeless, misshapen, ugly, shameful, base."
- Greek indicates conduct not in harmony with established norm of decency.
 - Act in defiance of social and moral standards that may result in disgrace, embarrassment, shame to others.

Rude with spoken/written words, actions. Eph 5:4, Mt 12:36

- Obvious: disrespect, poor manners, lack of common courtesies (ignoring someone), profane/indecent/coarse language /gestures, directly/indirectly put down others (double meanings/innuendoes) but call it humor,
- Not so obvious: inappropriately use freedom in Jesus Christ, cleverly one-up, monopolize or interrupt conversation. Prov 10:19 & 17:28, 1 Cor 8:9-11
 - More concerned with being heard/right than listening.
 - Longer I live....more I realize how much I don't know.
- Rude: Delight in being blunt, justifying on grounds of honesty.
 - Practice one virtue (honesty) at the expense of another.
 - Love does not verbalize all its thoughts, particularly if they do not build up.

The Lord is interested not only with Christian's character but also with the way we express character outwardly because it reveals our heart and reflects on the gospel.

- What does Christian's rudeness say about Jesus Christ, Gospel & our satisfaction in Jesus?
 - Example of Pastor's wife in store.
- Gospel and Jesus Christ = "not shapeless, misshapen, ugly, shameful, base" but rather beautiful, sweet, pure! Love is not unlovely.
 - Jesus Christ is never rude because He is the perfect expression of love.
- When we're rude, we receive unmerited mercy, kindness from our God.

That truth should move us to considerate, kind behavior, not rudeness, especially toward most unlovable people in our lives. Col 4:6, Eph 4:29, Titus 3:1-2, Jam 1:19, 1 Pet 3:15-16

- Behave/speak with reverence/respect/kindness/ good-will towards all men.
 - good manners, courteous, polite, sensitive to feelings of others.
 - Includes appropriately restraining freedoms in Jesus Christ!
- Love says/does proper thing at proper time in loving way.
 - Ask spouse, family, neighbors, etc. to point out when you're rude.

Purpose for speaking/communicating or doing anything to anyone at any time is to extend grace.

- Love is not rude. Love is not unlovely
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to produce authentic humility in our hearts that causes us to put others before ourselves.
- This will enable us to put God's honor ahead of your own and speak (write) or act graciously rather than rudely, disrespectfully or indecently.
 - This is possible because Jesus Christ broke power of sin on cross.