

Love is Big-Hearted Not Big-Headed 2017-07-02

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

- Arrogance was the root problem in Corinthian Church: boasting, who associate/eat with (Apollis, Paul), tolerance of sin & specific spiritual gifts/maturity.
- Arrogance revealed in self-righteousness, self-sufficiency & boasting (skills, possessions, SELFIEs, deeds, social media streams prideful or humble).
 - Arrogance stands in way of loving Lord & prevents loving others.
 - Love is not big-headed but big-hearted. 13:4, Rom 12:3

Arrogant = 'blow up, inflate like bellows, to exaggerate'...inflated opinion of own importance, ability, accomplishments.

- Arrogance is self-deception: improper view of Creator/creature distinction.
 - Everything you have an undeserved gift from God.
 - **Talents/abilities** 1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another.
 - **Intellect/knowledge** Daniel 2:21 He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.
 - **Physical appearance/athleticism** Psalms 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 - **Material wealth** 1 Samuel 2:7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and He exalts.
 - **Authority/prestige** Romans 13:1 For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.
 - **Spiritual qualities/accomplishments** 1 Corinthians 3:7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

Somebody who is "blown up" on inside is going to be a "windbag" on outside.

- Greek root word "boast" = "wind-bag". Only here in New Testament.
 - Magnifying, elevate self at others' expense for acceptance, admiration, attention, impress/manipulate others.
- The words of a boast maybe true but the prideful attitude is intended to tempt others to envy us and make them feel inferior. Love never does that.
 - You can be arrogant without boasting but hot air on the inside always comes out in words or attitude: you are always right, others are wrong, you do not receive correction.

Boasting demonstrates emotional insecurity and spiritual immaturity.

- Need to define worth by others noticing ME & God's approval not enough
 - God never sinfully boasts...He does not need our praise/help/approval His statements are not exaggerations but 100% true (many understated).

A proud spirit is greatly opposed by the Lord because it is a sin: takes undeserved credit, relies on self-sufficiency, unwilling to admit weaknesses. James 4:6, 1 John 2:16, Proverbs 8:13, 16:5 & 18

- Arrogance opposes the purpose God created man and provided salvation for sinners...so we glory in the cross & boast in HIM not ourselves. 1 Cor 1:25-31, Gal 6:14

Love is not big-headed but big-hearted, focused on the one loved, not self. Rom 12:10 & 16, Phil 2:3, Prov 27:2

- Jesus Christ is the perfect example of selfless, humble love. Phil 2:7-8, Mt 20:28, Jn 15:13
 - Give His life for others as ransom to satisfy God's holy justice.
 - Enables Christians with everything they need for life, godliness & service to Himself to glory of God. 1 Cor 4:7b, 15:10, Jn 15:5
 - no virtue or good accomplished without Jesus Christ.

Pride or humility is a comparative thing. It is a matter of how we see self in relation to God first and from that perspective how we see self in relation to others.

- Seek pleasure/joy in goodness & greatness of our incomparable Lord.
 - Glory in cross & boast in HIM not self.
- Use your undeserved gifts/blessings from God to joyfully serve others.
 - Love is big-hearted not big-headed.