**Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly**

*I Corinthians 13:1-8*

**I. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of Unbecoming**

A. Unbecoming—meaning *shameful, unpresentable, or indecent*

**1 Corinthians 12:23** - *and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,*

B. It is therefore not rude, unbecoming, out of place

*"Love does not behave gracelessly."[[1]](#footnote-1)*

*"The principle here has to do with poor manners, with acting rudely…It does not care enough for those it is around to act becomingly or politely. It cares nothing for their feelings or sensitivities. The loveless person is careless, overbearing, and often crude."[[2]](#footnote-2)*

**Genesis 9:23-24** - *But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father’s nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.*

**II. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Unbecoming for Them**

*"The Corinthian Christians were models of unbecoming behavior. Acting unseemly was almost their trademark. Nearly everything they did was rude and unloving."[[3]](#footnote-3)*

**They were rude in…**

A. In their Divisiveness (ch 1)

**1 Corinthians 1:10-12** - *Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.”*

B. In their Tolerance of Immorality (ch 5)

C. In their Lawsuits (ch 6)

D. In the Way they Acted Sexually in Marriage (ch 7)

E. In their Selfish Use of Christian Liberties (ch 8-10)

F. In the Taking of the Lord's Supper (ch 11)

**1 Corinthians 11:20-22** - *Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper, for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.*

G. In their Use of Spiritual Gifts (ch 12-14)

**1 Corinthians 14:11-12** - *If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me. So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.*

**III. The Application for Us**

1. Love Puts Off Filthiness and Course Jesting

**Eph 5:4**—and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

1. Love is Mindful About When and How Words and Actions are Used

**Eph 4:29**—Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

**Prov 25:11**—*Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.*

C. Love is Mindful of Behaving "Decently and In Order"

**1 Cor 14:40**—But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

1. William Barclay [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John MacArthur

 John MacArthur [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)