

LOVE AIN'T

1 Corinthians 13:4–6

love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ 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.

Sometimes the best way to describe something is to say what it isn't. Paul wants to ensure that man's proclamation of love isn't misunderstood. If it behaves in a certain way, even though you may say it is love, it aint!

Envy - *to have intense negative feelings over another's achievements or success, be filled with jealousy or envy*

Boast - *to heap praise on oneself, behave as a 'braggart, windbag'*

Arrogant - *to cause to have an exaggerated self-conception, puff up, make proud*

Rude - *to act contrary to the standard, behave disgracefully, dishonorably, indecently*

Insist on own way - *to devote serious effort (strive for, aim (at), try to obtain, desire, wish (for)) to realize one's desire or objective*

Irritable - *to cause a state of inward arousal toward anger, stimulate, provoke to wrath, irritate*

Resentful - *Reason or make plans like a child by keeping score. Based on a mathematical and accounting term*

Rejoice at Wrongdoing - *take pleasure in unrighteousness, wickedness, injustice*

Definitions from: William Arndt et al., [A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000)

Agape love is bigger than man's narrow view, and the ways of the flesh shouldn't corrupt it. It opposes selfishness, meanness, and ungracefulness. As a result, it is firmly committed to the will and ways of God rather than the will and ways of man.

What are we to do with the information Paul provides here? We must constantly ask ourselves: Am I envious, boastful, arrogant, rude, selfish, irritable, resentful, or rejoicing in things that don't make God happy? If so, I am not being loving, and I need to change.

Likewise, we must be spiritually sober and courageous enough to recognize and point out when actions don't align with God's agape love. It is vital to not only be examples of what love is but proclaimers of what love ain't! This is how we daily strive to be more faithful and obedient to the Lord. Go and love well!

Eyes up,
Ryan