

Love Does Not Brag and Is Not Arrogant

I Corinthians 13:4

It is worth remembering that this passage, beginning in verse 4 and going through verse 8, does not describe for us the benefits of love, it gives us the ingredients of love. What is the difference? Well, if you think these fifteen descriptive qualities of love are *benefits of love*, you will constantly look to “fall in love,” but if you see them as the *ingredients of love* you will find yourself asking, “Am I loving this person the way that Christ loves me?”

I. Love does not brag or boast.

When you love somebody, you don't put yourself in a superior position to that person. by saying “*I would never do that!*” or “*That's one thing that can't be said about me!*” Boasting is a declaration of comparison-- saying that others are not as good as you. Paul constantly reminded others about his own lack of superiority. “I am the least of the apostles,” “I am the very least of all the saints” (Eph. 3:8). “I am the foremost of sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15). This kind language is one of the ingredients of true agape love. There is a difference between understanding differences that you have with the people and *boasting* about your abilities, talents and accomplishments in comparison to them. When you compare and boast you are defending yourself, not loving outside yourself.

II. Love is not arrogant.

The difference between boasting and arrogance is similar to the difference between what is displayed on the outside of the house and what actually goes on in the inside. ***Arrogance is an attitude; boasting is an action.*** One must be careful assigning pride to others, but one should be diligent in identifying pride within self. Love is not proud. The true way to be humble is not to stoop until you are smaller than yourself, but to stand at your real height against some higher nature that will show you what the real smallness of your greatness is. When I see God, I see myself as the least of all things.

III. Boasting and arrogance will fail you.

Boasting is a *vocal declaration of your superiority*, while your **arrogance** is an *inner attitude of superiority*. People filled with shame and insecurity are just as boastful and arrogant as others—it's just that they want you to tell them how great they are.

- A. Pride locks God out of our thoughts** – “The proud do not seek God; in all their thoughts there is no room for Him” (Ps. 10:4). Who has need of God?
- B. Pride always leads to a moral fall** – “Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). The proud foot will slide – *will* slide – in due time.
- C. Pride brings disgrace** – “When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with humility comes wisdom” (Prov. 11:2). Love and humility go hand in hand.
- D. Pride is the mother of all quarrels** – “Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice” (Prov. 13:10). The Christian who rests in God's love for sinners is transformed by God's Spirit to be a person who loves as He loves. God's love takes people where they are and accepts them as they are.