**Loving Our Neighbors**

**Love the Way Jesus Taught It**

**The Characteristics of Love**

**Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly**

**I. The Meaning of this Particular Characteristic of Love**

A. The root word means shameful, unpresentable, or indecent (BGD, p. 119).

B. Paul had just used a related word a few verses earlier.

**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,*

C. The overall point is rude, unbecoming, out of place.

"Love does not behave gracelessly." William Barclay

"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." John MacArthur

**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. Some of the Reasons this was Important to the Corinthian Church**

"The Corinthian Christians were models of unbecoming behavior. Acting unseemly was almost their trademark. Nearly everything they did was rude and unloving." John MacArthur

A. They were rude in their divisiveness – chapter 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. They were rude in their acceptance of immorality – chapter 5

C. They were rude in the way they took one another to court – chapter 6

D. They were rude in the way they functioned sexually in marriage – chapter 7

E. They were rude in their selfish expressions of Christian liberty – chapters 8-10

F. They were rude at the Lord's Table – chapter 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. They were rude in their expression of the spiritual gifts – chapters 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. Some of the Many Ways This Can Apply to Us**

A. Love avoids course jesting or indecent talk.

B. Love thinks carefully about the timing and setting of one's words and actions.

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

C. Love is concerned about behaving "decently and in order".