

Love is not rude

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Welcome

Opening Scripture	Ps 95:1-7
Hymn:	MP 620 Sweet is the work, my God, my king 5v
Reading:	Ps 97
Prayer:	Adoration and Praise
Communion prep	Last supper Confession Cramner (Ridley, Latimer)
Communion	
Main reading:	Rom 12:9f 1 Cor 13:4-8
Hymn	458 Man of sorrows what a name
Sermon:	Love is not rude
Hymn:	987 Here is love vast as the ocean
Close	-----

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The audio file is [21\\_02\\_07.mp3](#).

### Welcome and pray

The film 'Gold' is about an American gold prospector desperate to make his millions. He teams up with a man who has had some success working in Indonesia. They find Gold - or at least so they think. As the news comes back to the US there is great excitement both in the mining company and on the NY stock exchange. The extravagant living, however, is short lived!

■ The main character is this American prospector called Kenny. Kenny is often unshaven and unkept. From start to finish he comes across as fixated, forceful, abrupt. He is often seen with a cigarette in one hand and a drink in the other. He is slovenly, he lounges around, he is sloppily dressed, and if he has a tie it is always loose around his neck, in his approach to everyone he comes up close, his language is often choice.

What kind of person is he? He is unloving.

How can you say that, how do you know? You shouldn't judge by appearances, it's unfair he may be very loving! No. No!

As we continue our series on **love** we come to 1 Cor 13:5 '**love is not rude**'. Was he rude? When we hear the word **rude** we think of speech, language, a narrow definition. The word is translated **rude** because the words that fit best are no longer used in modern English.

Let me show you why this man is **rude** - the word in the Greek is ἀσχημονέω aschemoneo as-kay-mon-eh'-o. (Strong's 807) The AV translates it here: love.... **doth not behave itself unseemly** <807> The word occurs twice in the Bible, once here and once in 1Co 7:36 **if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely ... let them marry**. Or as the NIV has it "**If.. he is acting improperly**

There then are the two occasions; one: **unseemly**, one: **uncomely**. Love does not behave in an **unseemly** way; Love does not behave in an **uncomely** way.

The root of this word is 809 ἀσχήμων askemon and occurs once in the Bible in 1Co 12:23 the AV reads: **And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely** as-kay'-mone <809> **parts have more abundant comeliness**.

In our modern NIV and we read .... **And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty,**" (1Co 12:23 NIV)

So this word **Rude** is best understood as being **uncomely/unseemly**. Not familiar with them? no nor are most, so let's turn up a dictionary or two.

... And having checked several, for 'uncomely' you find it means unpleasant to look at. It goes on to describe uncomely as: 'not in keeping with accepted standards of what is right or proper in polite society; "he was buried with indecent haste"; or "indecorous behaviour"; or "language unbecoming to a lady". Other words/Synonyms for **uncomely** would be: grotesque, hideous, ugly, unappealing, unattractive, unlovely, unpleasing, unsightly, vile.

Do the same for 'unseemly' and you have: "Not in accord with accepted standards of decency or morality. In an improper or inappropriate manner. Not suited to the circumstances; unattractive; unsightly". An example is given: *"The point at which the walls of suburban houses meet the lawns is quite unseemly and must be covered up with these stunted trees"*.

Other words for **unseemly** would be: improper, unbecoming, indelicate, indecent, indecorous.

- Now we understand what it means does it apply to the character in the film? Certainly. Is this man rude? Definitely. And therefore unloving. x2

We have seen **love is patient, love is kind, it is not proud** etc, whether it is words, actions or attitudes everything is for the good of the other person, for love is 'other centered'. It is how we rightly relate to each other. x2

Love is careful not to pass the bounds of decency, love never acts out of its place or character; love observes due decorum and good manners; it is never *rude, rough* or *brutish*; and is ever willing to become all things to all men that it may please them for their good and edification. In other words as the Latin Vulgate version reads here love "**is not ambitious**"; it does seek self-honour and applause, but rather is lowly, meek and humble.

- ✚ The point is that it prompts to all that is fitting and becoming in life; and runs from all that is unfit and unbecoming.

The world loves to shock, highlight the bizarre, the strange and every distortion and perversion. Love does nothing base or vile, it actively stands against anything that would be a violation of decorum, decency or delicacy.

So we can see that rudeness applies in 3 areas: 1. how we present ourselves, - 2. our demeanor or behaviour – 3. and our words, speech, conversation.

Three headings: our ABC Appearance, our Behavior and our Conversation

So to the first of our three, to be loving is to be **comely** that is our.....

### Appearance

How you dress expresses who you are. It is an area where you make choices. What you chose, how you dress, effects those who see you.

- Once BCM Intern always dressed in black. I sympathised for I used to. But he is a Christian now. Did that commend Christ? No. Going D-D how did that look to those who answered? He had given it no thought.

Do you give thought to what you wear? Who do you consider? - others? - Or just yourself?

With the man in the film his appearance reflected his character. He had no concern whatsoever for others, except that it be for his own advantage.

We live in a strongly "do what you want" age.

- The punk with his Mohican is making a statement – it's a 'shout' actually No-one here like that, but in a lesser way power dressing, striking clothes or jewelry, if not shouting, is still speaking. What does your appearance "say?"

This word '**Rude**' while only twice in the NT occurs four times in the Greek OT and is translated 'bare', as in the shock of nudity.

- A house with an unkempt front garden slowly filling with rubbish sends a message... it 'speaks' about the owner to the neighbours.
- ✚ So also a man or woman in scruffy unkempt clothes says something, it 'speaks' about your attitude to your neighbours.

Love means we want to promote the good of all, and that means to avoid everything that would jar or draw attention to itself. Christians should never stand out in our choice of clothes, whether it's being scruffy - or being super smart. The world says 'that's my business'. The "don't like it then get over it" attitude. No. Love for others means it is all our business.

To have an untidy or dishevelled appearance shows no love for others. For behind that is a carelessness. – And a careless heart is an unloving heart.

It could be you stand out in the sense of being peculiar, or it could be that you stand out against the conventions of the day.

Why did Paul say this to the church at Corinth? This term could point back to the rebuke about the appearance of women 1Co 11:5 "**And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head—it is just as though her head were shaved.**" Why? Because such a woman went

against the conventions of the day in which women covered their heads as a sign of their femininity – in the sense of being a female image bearer.

The worldly man or woman spends their time trying to discover who they are, who they want to be, finding some image, finding some identity.

✚ .... But as Christians we are to reflect our God given identity.

Now I am not saying women should wear skirts and men a suit and tie, for in our conventions today that is not necessary.

Wearing a suit and tie can be definitely the wrong thing to do in some contexts. To dress in a way that makes a strong statement counter to the norm, to go against what is fitting attire for the time and place - is to be unloving.

In the church we have wonderful liberty, we do not have to conform to a strict stereotype or dress code. But I wonder if you, when you are choosing what to wear think about how others will see you? Is it commending to Christ? Is your appearance, un-presupposing, unostentatious, i.e not fancy, no showy clothes or shoes, neither over casual nor slick. We must think about it.

Secondly, to be loving is to be **seemly** that is our

### *Demeanour*

Just as clothes speak, so does our demeanor. Your attitude shows in your body language. It reflects your attitude. Body language is not easy to fake! Haughtiness, Aloofness, indifference, hardness, are all communicated to others, but so too is meekness and humility.

Why did Paul say this to the church at Corinth? Paul is indirectly reproving the Corinthians for their attitude to the Lord's Supper 1 Co 11 **“for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!”** 1Co 11:21-22

Later in chap. 14 the apostle has to rebuke those who possessed gifts and who set themselves up above others. He says in effect if you love your brother your will limit their use.

✚ One commentator said: “they shamefully disregarded others with an unseemly haughtiness. To be so is unloving. Love is not ostentatious, but observes moderation and propriety.”

As we relate to others it is our demeanour or deportment (how we carry ourselves) that communicates our love - or lack of it - and this is especially so when the other person is very different to ourselves.

Love gives due reverence and respect to our superiors, love give kindness and condescension to those considered less valued, love gives courtesy and good-will towards all men.

How is your body language? What is it 'saying'?

1. Standing facing someone with arms folded, appears to be putting up a barrier.
2. Facing head on in a difficult conversation can appear confrontational.> side on
3. Not looking at someone, looking at others or elsewhere, carrying on what you are doing all signal disinterest in the person speaking to you.

**In listening to others it is your attentiveness that communicates love.**

Christ was accused of many things by many people, his own brothers were against him, his home town, the religious leaders, all sorts accused him, but there was never a hint that it was because of his appearance or his demeanor

**‘Manners maketh man’ so the old proverb goes – but it’s not in the Bible. Manners don’t make man, but they are a mark of a godly man.**

**Love is not unseemly** means I take great care to present myself well to all regardless of their status, their homes, their pleasures, their views.

**Love is not unseemly** means I don't break established order for my own sake. **Love is not unseemly** means I recognise the nuances and complexities of society in time, place and culture. I act decently, I am not a meddler in others people's business, I don't criticise or condemn.

Love means you to act in a proper way in all different relationships you find in life. I am sensitive and relate in the right way to someone who is a husband, a wife, or a parent, a child, a brother, a sister, a son, a daughter. Towards each one I am to be above reproach.

I know we have the phrase ‘*The great British eccentric*’ but to be ‘odd’ is not a birth-right! If what you do does not commend Christ and the gospel - then don't do it. I know we like ‘self-expression’, and we mustn't hinder our ‘artistic flair’ but is it right to paint your bin orange if everyone on your road has a grey one? Does what you drive make a statement contrary to the modest Christian life. Is there anything that makes you an odddity? Let's commend Christ. Is it your gate that is hanging on its hinges? Is there rubbish in your garden? Let your garden be well looked after, it speaks. &..

Lastly, and obviously, **love that is not rude** shows in our conversation.

### *Our Words / our speech*

As our nations turns from God the result is a huge increase in rudeness. Ask a bus driver, or shop keeper or anyone dealing with the public.

Pharmacist at Lindsworth wearing lapel cam because of the rudeness, aggression, dishonesty and theft of the customers, what a state we are in! Among God's Holy people there should never be a hint of rudeness, don't slip. The tongue is key - After the heart is converted, next is the tongue.

If we profess to follow Christ there must a sharp distinction in our language, no profanity, no indecent language, no improper allusions, double meanings, innuendoes, coarseness, all these are offensive, corrosive, destructive.

So many now will speak aggressively, abusively, rudely to anyone. Many have no regard for position; whether towards royalty, the PM, the local leaders, the Police, the boss or the teacher at school.

- Social media has made it so easy to communicate with undue familiarity – and rudely - to those we have never met.

And of course the sickening blasphemies that we hear everywhere - directed against Jesus Christ.

How the God given tongue is used as a weapon against our loving creator.

For God's Holy people we are told: - **Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.** Eph 4:29

Your speech is the clearest expression of who you are. To love your brother, sister, neighbor means you are careful and deliberate with your words. Jesus was. Always.

1Pe 2:22 "**He committed no sin, and no deceit (guile) was found in his mouth.**" Jesus says: **But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**" Mt 12:36,37

How important our words are – every word!

Christ is our great example, we hear of those who heard him speak **All ... were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.** Lu 4:22 The gracious words

So we as Christians are told: **Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.** Col 4:6

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- Over the years I have seen in this church and others, there have been some who profess to follow Christ but will hardly speak to others, some are quite indifferent, or their conversation is of themselves - and find it hard to listen to others, some are abrupt, or critical, or complainers.

May that not be true of any of us here. Let us seek to be loving in our words, full of grace, - how pleased the Lord would be with that.

The Syriac version renders **Love is not rude** as: "**neither does it commit that which is shameful**" in other words avoiding of all that is ungodly in speech.

Yes as Paul said to Christian in Ephesus **it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.** Eph 5:12 A Christian is to be different; salt & light.

Beware when you are among unbelievers, especially when there is the peer pressure of a group. It is easy for the sake of acceptance and popularity join with gossip, to impress by exaggerating, to join in with flattery, to laugh at riske jokes. How hard it is to avoid being lead into their grumbling and cynicism about the current state of this or that, Trump, Covid handling, etc.

**The commentator Gill says "a man concerned to show grace will be careful that no filthy and corrupt communication proceed out of his mouth.**

**Love is not rude.** The best check on our course society will come when Christians ensure nothing is said or done which is not *seemly, fit, and decent!* Christians, we must be different in every good sense..

- In a crowd you might think to yourself "I bet he/she is a Christian, how can you tell, by their demeanor, by the way they present themselves, by the way they come across, by their manner, you are not always able to tell – but often you can - and so you listen for confirmation in their speech.

How loving are you in these areas?

- One Christian out for a meal with his son, thought "what a lovely evening this is, good company, everything is perfect", the thought crossed his mind that he wasn't sinning – but then he thought, "am I making every effort the present Christ to him? Am I doing so in how I appear?, in my whole body language and demeanor? in my attitude and interest etc.? And in my speech, in everything I say? That is the test.

How loving are you? **Love is not rude.** Is everything about you reflecting the Lord Jesus Christ? Your appearance, your demeanor and your words.

Remember the ABC? DO all these areas reflects Christ in you? \_\_\_END

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