



Chapter Five — *Love Is Not Arrogant* (1 Corinthians 13:4)

“Love ... it is not arrogant.” — 1 Corinthians 13:4

Big Idea

Love refuses to inflate self and chooses humble service instead.

As Paul continues his description of love, he tells us plainly that love *is not arrogant*. The Greek word behind this phrase means *to puff up* or *to inflate*. It paints the picture of someone who enlarges themselves in a relationship—taking up emotional and relational space that should belong to others.

Arrogance quietly shifts love off center. Instead of serving freely, we begin serving for recognition. Instead of giving generously, we begin keeping score. Instead of blessing others, we subtly seek affirmation for ourselves.

True love moves in the opposite direction.

God’s love models humility. Jesus served without demanding applause, gave without expecting repayment, and ultimately laid down His life without seeking recognition. When love is genuine, it is content to remain unseen.

Arrogance damages relationships because it crowds out compassion. Humility creates space for love to grow.

Love that reflects Christ does good without announcing it, gives credit away, and finds joy in serving simply because it honors God.

Practical Takeaways

- Arrogance inflates self; love makes room for others.
- Arrogance seeks recognition; love seeks connection.
- Arrogance keeps score; love gives freely.
- Arrogance wants applause; love is content with God's approval.
- Humility protects relationships and deepens spiritual impact.

Ways to practice love without arrogance:

- Check your motives before serving.
- Do kind things anonymously.
- Redirect praise toward God or others.
- Remember Christ's humility on the cross.
- Celebrate the opportunity to serve rather than the attention it brings.

When our identity is secure in Christ, we are free to love quietly and powerfully.

Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of examples of humble service you have observed?
2. Can you think of ways God has served you that may have gone unrecognized?
3. In what ways does inflating self, remove space for loving others?
4. How does inflating self, steal some glory meant for God?
5. What helps you recognize when your service is becoming more about recognition than about love?
6. What is one practical way you can serve someone this week without anyone else knowing?