



Chapter Six — *Love Is Not Rude* (1 Corinthians 13:5)

“[Love is not] rude.” — 1 Corinthians 13:5

Big Idea

Love chooses respect over selfishness and treats every person with dignity.

As Paul continues describing what love is *not*, he tells us plainly: **love is not rude**. The Greek word behind this phrase carries the idea of behaving *outside proper bounds*—acting in ways that disregard another person’s dignity or worth.

Rudeness is more than poor manners. It is selfishness showing itself in tone, attitude, and behavior. It happens when our convenience, frustration, or emotions take priority over someone else’s value.

Love moves in the opposite direction.

Love stays within the boundaries of respect.

Love guards its words.

Love honors people—even when tired, stressed, or inconvenienced.

Jesus modeled this kind of love perfectly. He spoke truth without cruelty, showed compassion without compromise, and treated people with dignity even when falsely accused or deeply misunderstood. His life reminds us that love doesn’t merely avoid harshness—it actively protects the dignity of others.

Rudeness erodes relationships. Respect builds them.

Every interaction becomes an opportunity: we can either communicate “*you matter*” or “*you’re in my way*.” Love always chooses the first.



Practical Takeaways

- Rudeness prioritizes self; love prioritizes others.
- Rudeness wounds; respect heals.
- Rudeness reacts; love responds thoughtfully.
- Rudeness devalues; love dignifies.

Ways to practice love without rudeness:

- Be as courteous at home as you are in public.
- Pause before speaking when emotions rise.
- Listen without interrupting.
- Express gratitude often—even for small things.
- Extend grace when people fail or disappoint you.
- Make “please,” “thank you,” and “I’m sorry” part of everyday language.

Removing rudeness from our lives usually requires pushing past fatigue and frustration. But when we choose respect, we reflect the heart of Christ and create safer, healthier relationships.



Discussion Questions

1. Why is it often easier to show respect to those we view as “superior” to us?
2. When have you been most hurt by rudeness? How did it affect your relationship with that person?
3. Which relationships in your life might need more intentional courtesy from you?
4. How does remembering God’s respectful, patient love toward you help you extend that same love to others?
5. In what situations are you most tempted to be short, sharp, or dismissive—and how can you invite God into those moments?
6. What is one practical way you can show respect to someone close to you this week?