

# Love is Not BOASTFUL or PROUD

Luke 18:9

He also told this parable to *some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt.*



*“According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind...it is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began.*

*—C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

## **Proverbs 16:18-19**

**Pride goes before destruction, and  
haughtiness before a fall.**

**Better to live humbly with the poor than to  
share plunder with the proud.**



**Matthew 23:12 (NLT2)**

But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

—Jesus



# A Self Perpetuating Relationship

Boasting is the external display of Pride,  
an internal disposition.

Both are equally destructive.

Boasting cannot survive without Pride, and  
Pride is rarely satisfied without Boasting.



Pride  
Boasts:  
If You Got It,  
Flaunt It!



# The Church in Corinth Had a Serious Problem With Pride and Boasting

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NLT2)

When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

# The Only Thing to Boast About

## 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, “If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD.”

# Paul Had a Pedigree to Back Up Pride

Philippians 3:4b-7 (NIV)

...If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

# In 1 Corinthians 11-14 Pride and Boasting Are Seen in Relational Issues

- When spiritual gifts are exercised without love they are not spiritual, but prideful.
- When one leader in the church is held in higher esteem because he champions our cause, it is prideful.
- When we boast about the grace we show to some, while running others down, we are neither loving nor gracious.
- When someone's superior knowledge drives a wedge between them and uniformed fellow Christians, it is not love. **“Knowledge puffs up, Love builds up.”**

# Knowledge, Freedom, Pride, and Food

1 Corinthians 8:4-12 (NLT2)

So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God. There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords. But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.

However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do.



But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble. For if others see you—with your “superior knowledge”—eating in the temple of an idol, won’t they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol? So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed. And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ.



**Paul Writes in 1 Corinthians 4:7,  
*For who makes you different from anyone  
else? What do you have that you did not  
receive? And if you did receive it, why do you  
boast as though you did not?***



## 2 Corinthians 11:10-13 (NIV)

As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine. Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.



## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (NIV)

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

# From Point A, Pride, To Point B, Humility

- There must be a “renewing of the mind.” Romans 12:1-2
- Adjust our thinking about ourselves.  
Romans 12:3 (NLT2) ...I give each of you this warning:  
Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest  
in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves  
by the faith God has given us.
- Take a dose of Humility, Love must be humble if it is to be  
the antidote to the poison of Boastful Pride.

# Jesus is the Gold Standard of Attractive and Compelling Humility

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



# Boasting and Pride

- Born of Envy
  - Fueled By Feelings of Inferiority
- Dangerous to the Health of Our Souls
  - Opposite of the Example of Jesus
- Hinders Our Intimacy With God and Others
- Prevents Us From Loving God and Others.

## Isaiah 57:15

The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts."



**“They that know God will be humble; they  
that know themselves cannot be proud.”  
— John Flavel**

**“Where but by the grace of God go I?”**



# Let's Pray This Prayer

Dear Father, help me know that you are God and I am not. By the power of your Holy Spirit, change my heart O God, and show me how to have the same humble attitude as Christ Jesus. May your Holy Spirit convict me of any pride in my heart and hush every boastful word that would come out of my mouth. Replace pride and boasting with a love for you and others that is conditioned by humility.

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14*