



FAMILY STUDY

Boastology

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"Boastology"

The Trouble With Boasting...

Boasting has always been a common practice of humanity, but do we truly understand how foolish it is? What is the point, after all, of boasting? If we're good (or even great) at something, won't it be obvious to onlookers without our having to tell them? At best, boasting reveals our overgrown concerns about what others think of us. At worst, boasting works to bring attention to ourselves, removing the focus from God, to whom the glory is due. We encourage you to look up, study and discuss the Scripture passages included in this Family Study this week, and may God bless you as you honor Him!

Boasting of Ourselves is Folly

Boasting is not looked upon by the Scriptures with favor. Those who boast of themselves, their plans, their exploits, or their possessions are painted as fools at best, and as sinners at worst. In Isaiah 14:12-15, you will read of the kind of prideful and boastful attitude that caused Satan himself to be cast down from heaven.

Psalm 10:3	Proverbs 26:12	Romans 12:16
Psalm 49:5-6	Proverbs 27:1	1 Corinthians 8:2
Psalm 52:1	Isaiah 5:21	Galatians 6:3
Proverbs 3:7	Isaiah 47:10	James 3:5
Proverbs 25:6-7	Jeremiah 9:23-24	James 4:13-16
Proverbs 25:14	Ezekiel 28:2	
Proverbs 25:27	Matthew 23:12	
Proverbs 26:5	Mark 10:35-40	

We Have Nothing of Ourselves to Boast About

Imagine what you'd think if you painted a picture, and then somehow the painting began speaking, boasting about how beautiful it was. Would such a painting have a right to boast? After all, it was YOU, not the painting, who made the painting beautiful. How much more is this true of God. It is He who made us and He who gave us everything we have, including our talents and skills. How foolish of us to boast of such things as if they were of our own doing!

John 19:11	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	Ephesians 2:8-9
Romans 11:17-21	1 Corinthians 4:7	James 1:17

Love Does Not Boast

As Christians, we are commanded to love the Lord and to love one another. However, it is important to remember that love does not allow for pride or boastfulness. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Note in verse 4 that love does not boast and is not proud. If we are proud and boastful of ourselves, we cannot carry out God's command to love Him and to love each other.

Boasting in God

Although we should not boast in ourselves, we can boast in our Lord, and rightly so. After all, it is God who created all things good, and it is God who offers salvation to all those who put their trust in Him. God's greatness is more than we could ever comprehend, and we cannot over-boast about Him!

Psalm 34:2	Jeremiah 9:24
Psalm 44:8	1 Corinthians 1:31
Isaiah 45:25	2 Corinthians 10:17

True Greatness

God has a different idea of greatness than we do. God doesn't consider us great if we're good at something, or if we're attractive to look at or are smart or strong. These are worldly criteria for greatness, and indeed, none of them amount to much in God's economy. Take a look at the Scripture passages below to learn what God sees as greatness.

Matthew 5:19
Matthew 20:26
Matthew 23:11-12

Humility Rather Than Pride

Clearly, we have seen that we, as God's creation and as sinners, have no justification to boast in ourselves. Greatness comes from being a servant and from living to please God. Pride in ourselves does not fit into this equation. Rather, we should strive to live in humility, doing our best to serve God while letting our actions speak for themselves. This is what pleases the Lord.

Proverbs 11:12	Zephaniah 2:3	Titus 3:2
Proverbs 15:33	Romans 12:3	James 3:13
Proverbs 18:12	Philippians 2:3	1 Peter 5:5
Proverbs 22:4	Colossians 3:12	

Conclusion

We see boastful attitudes everywhere we look. In Hollywood, in the music industry, and in professional sports arenas, boasting and self-glorification are easy to find. However, in the "hall of fame" of great people of faith and service to God, you will find no such attitudes. And so finally, the question at hand is this: Do you want to be great in man's sight for a short while, or do you want to be great in God's sight for eternity? After studying the Scriptures on this issue, the answer to this question should be clear.