

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 54

Humility  
(#6)

**\*\* What about pride & boasting? \*\***

**PRIDE & BOASTING**

> Normally the opposite of <  
HUMILITY

Love is not ... **boastful** or **proud**.  
1 Cor. 13:4b (NLT)

 **BEWARE!**

- Some forms of the **False Gospel**, and much of so-called "**Christian psychology**" cater to human pride.

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- Our goal today is to see what the Bible says about pride.
  - And about boasting (a related issue).

**PART 1**

To start, we must affirm:  
**You DO have dignity, value, worth.**

- **Why do we say this?**
  - To make you feel good?
  - Because some humanistic psychologist says so?

– **NO!!!** *It's because the Bible says so!*  
(If it didn't say so, it wouldn't be true.)

**What does the Bible say?**

**ALL PEOPLE:**

- Created in the image of God, to rule over all the rest of creation (Genesis 1:26-27).

**SAVED PEOPLE** (not the fakes):

- (individually) A new creation (2 Cor. 5:17); all equally the "sons of God" and "one" in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:26-28; 4:4-7).
- (as a group) The Spirit of God lives in us (1 Cor. 3:16); the dwelling place of God (Eph. 2:19-22).

## But does this mean we can be proud and boast about ourselves?

**\* OF COURSE NOT! \***

- Our sin has corrupted the way we express God's image, and how we rule over creation.  
– **Is this something to boast about?**
- It is only because of GOD that we can become new creations, united with Christ, the dwelling place of God, etc.  
– **We can't take credit for this!**

## So what should we do?

- **Boast anyway!**  
*But change the focus of our boasting:*

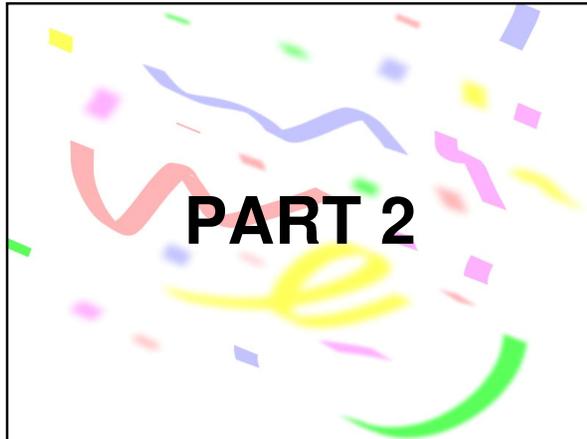
In God we **boast** all the day long,  
and your name will we praise forever.

Psalm 44:8 (OEB)

Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who  
boasts **boast in the Lord.**"

1 Cor. 1:31 (NIV)

★ All we're doing is giving credit where it's due! ★



## What about our GIFTS and ABILITIES?

- Each of us has something that others don't have – gifts, abilities, opportunities, perhaps even wealth.
- **Should we be proud, and boast about these?**

## Consider this...

- **Where** did we get these things?

What makes you better than anyone else? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why **boast** as though you have accomplished something on your own?

1 Cor. 4:7 (NLT)\*

God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.

Romans 12:6a (NLT)

\* (In this passage, they were boasting about leaders; but the principle applies to everything.)

## Consider this...

- **Why** do we have these things?  
– To boast about them? Or to share with others?

Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit.  
... To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all.

1 Cor. 12:4, 7 (NET)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

## Conclusion?

"Let not the wise man **boast** of his wisdom  
or the strong man **boast** of his strength  
or the rich man **boast** of his riches,

**but let him who boasts boast about this:**  
that he understands and knows me,  
that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV)



- **Boasting in God** is **not sin** (as we've just seen).

**But is there any other kind of boasting or pride that is NOT sin?**

- Scripture describes **nearly EVERY other type** of pride and boasting as **sin**.
- **But there are a few exceptions!**

## How can this be?

- In any language, words can be used different ways.
  - Check any large dictionary and see!

**EXAMPLE (the word "love"):** →

I **love** pizza!

I **love** cats!

I **love** you!

- The **context** in which the word occurs helps us know if the boasting is good or evil.

My tennis score: "**love**." \*

\* (This means "zero.")



**When you're thinking about the "exceptions"...**



- Never forget that, for the most part, it **is** sin.
- Most types of pride and boasting bring a person **under God's judgment**.

★ **Don't deceive yourself, by pretending it's not so!** ★

**If it goes against "humility," it is SIN, and God is your opponent.**

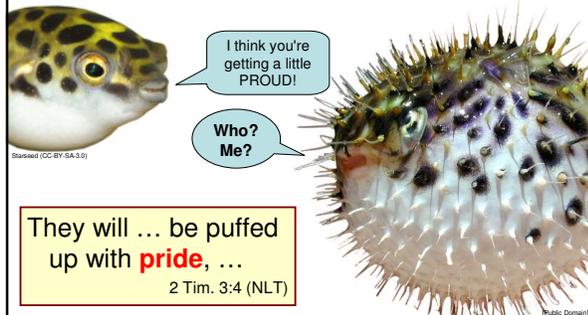
The LORD detests those who are **proud**; truly they will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 16:5 (ISV)

"God opposes the **proud**, but gives grace to the **humble**."

James 4:6b (LEB)

## People in the "last days"...



## Pride that is NOT evil. (examples)

I have great confidence in you. I am very proud of you. I am very much encouraged. I am overjoyed in all our troubles.

2 Cor. 7:4 (ISV)

For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Let each one examine his own work. Then he can take **pride** in himself and not compare himself with someone else. For each one will carry his own load.

Galatians 6:3-5 (NET)

## How often do you have THIS type of pride?

Now the believer of **humble** means should take **pride** in his high position.

But the rich person's pride should be in his **humiliation**, because he will pass away like a wildflower in the meadow.

James 1:9-10 (NET)

## Boasting that is evil. (examples)

But as it is, you **boast** [about future plans] in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:16 (NET)

For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the **boasting** of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world.

1 John 2:16 (NIV)

## Boasting that is NOT evil. (examples)

For this is what we **boast** about: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world with pure motives and godly sincerity, without earthly wisdom but with God's grace—especially toward you.

2 Cor. 1:12 (ISV)

As a result we ourselves **boast** about you in the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions you are enduring.

2 Thes. 1:4 (NET)

## "Stupid" Boasting

(Paul's opponents forced him to do it)

Such **bragging** is not something the Lord wants, but I am acting **like** a fool. And since others [supposed leaders] **boast** about their human achievements, I will, too.

But whatever they dare to **boast** about—I'm talking **like** a fool again—I can **boast** about it, too.

2 Cor. 11:17-18, 21b (NLT)

I have plenty to **boast** about and would be no fool in doing it, because I would be telling the truth.

2 Cor. 12:6a (NLT)

[In this passage, he spoke **LIKE** a fool, without **BEING** one!]

## "Preferred" Boasting

If I must **boast**, I would rather **boast** about the things that show how weak I am.  
2 Cor. 11:30 (NLT)

**WHY??**

[God] said, "My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness."  
 So now I am glad to **boast** about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me.  
2 Cor. 12:9 (NLT)



## KEY IDEAS

- *If it builds up others and honors God*  
 (= if it expresses love for God and neighbor),  
 – then we can call it good!
- *If it exalts ourselves* above God and others, or *if it exalts sin*,  
 – then it is definitely evil.  
 (Even if there is half-truth in it.)



## KEY IDEAS

Any pride or boasting that goes against "humility" is incompatible with salvation.

**(Don't deceive yourself. They CAN'T coexist.)**



## YOUR MISSION

- Evaluate your pride and boasting.
- If there are areas where your attitude goes against Scripture...
  - Decide who you are going to follow: **Jesus** ... or the **world**.  
 (You CAN'T follow both!)

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