

Blessed Boasting #2

A Word With No English Equivalent - A Concept We Need.

KAUCHESIS: the act of glorying, delighting, rejoicing or boasting in something.

Kauchesis is what 'floats your boat' - the things that you dwell on that really light you up. Kauchesis can either be good or bad. It can be good to pause and delight in something. There is even a good form of boasting and rejoicing (that is next week's sermon). But this week we explore the three worst kinds of kauchesis - bad boasting!

What Is So Annoying About Boasting?

Aussies really dislike those who boast or brag. We are known for cutting them down tall poppies. Even when boasting is true we still dislike it. What is so annoying about boasting?

How Do You Respond To A Humblebrag?

Social media is the perfect place for boasting. But what happens when you really want to trumpet about an achievement but not look like you are promoting yourself? This is the time for the 'humblebrag'. Here are three real examples from social media...

"Ack! Just spilled red wine on my new book contract! #bumblingthroughlife"

"Sometimes it's hard being so popular." #toomanyfriends

"I just did something very selfless. But more importantly I know it means a lot to the person in the long run." #soworthit

Research shows that people hate the humblebrag even more than normal bragging. We would rather hear someone honestly promote themselves than pretend to be humble while boasting!

So how do you spot a humblebrag? How do you respond to it?

Three Of The Worst Kinds Of Bad Boasting

The New Testament condemns a variety of kinds of boasting. But there are three that stand out as the worst kinds. Which do you feel is most dangerous for Aussies? For you?

1. Delight/Rejoicing/Boasting in... Our Plans.

Did you plan to go overseas? Did you plan your finances, your career, your retirement, your next move, only to have it ruined by the news of 2020? Yes, it is wise to plan. But don't get too comfortable with your plans. Don't let your plans be your main source of delight. There needs to be a sense that everything we plan is provisional - God can change it any moment.

Reflect and discuss...

James 4:13-17. Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

2. Delight/Rejoicing/Boasting in... Our Freedom To Sin

Beware of letting grace become an excuse to sin. That's the road to a dead soul.

Reflect and discuss...

1 Corinthians 5:1,6. It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate... Your boasting is not good.

3. Delight/Rejoicing/Boasting in... Our 'Superior' Faith

The truest faith, the true faith, never makes someone feel superior - it makes us humble.

If you delight in how right your doctrine is, how right your religion is, how much better your spirituality is, then you're deeply missing the point of Jesus.

Read and discuss...

Romans 2:17-23. Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark... You who boast in the law, do you dishonour God by breaking the law?

Why Do We Dislike Boasters? Because There Really Is Nothing To Boast About. It's All Grace!

I think we don't like boasters because deep down we know something about ourselves, a truth about human nature and who we really are - there is no reason for us to boast in ourselves. All the good we have is not earned, but a gift!

Reflect and discuss...

Romans 3:27-28. Is there any reason to boast? No way! Could we boast in law? Or our good works? No. But in the way of faith. For we hold that one is right with God by faith...

Ephesians 2:8-9. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast

Close in prayer!