

Blessed Boasting #3 - Discussion Notes

COMMON KINDS OF ONLINE BOAST POST

KAUCHESIS: Glorying in, delighting, revelling, rejoicing, boasting.

This sermon series has been about noticing where you get your joy, what lights you up, what gives you ‘your kicks’. There has been a lot of research on the connection between social media and happiness. Often higher usage of social media is correlates with depression. This doesn’t mean social media necessarily causes depression, but it is often involved in worsening it. Places like Facebook and Instagram invite constant comparison, can create envy, and increase feelings of inferiority or FOMO (fear of missing out).

I had a quick look at Facebook this weekend and noticed six most common kinds of kauchesis - things people rejoice in, glory in, delight in, or boast of: The food boast, the holiday boast, the selfie boast, the relationship boast, the body boast, the faith boast.

I’m not saying it’s wrong to rejoice in or share these things. But it can be. When?

What do you think of these different common kinds of online post?

BAD BOASTING vs BLESSED BOASTING

Read, compare, and discuss the two different kinds of kauchesis. What interests you here? What do you want to say about it?

BAD KAUCHESIS	GOOD KAUCHESIS
Feels empty	Comes from fullness
About Self	About Grace
My Plans	Gratitude
My Looks	Thankfulness
My Stuff	Simple
My Achievements	Humility
Invites comparison	Simply delights
Delights in power	Delights in truth
Builds the false self	Enjoys the true self
Hides my real needs	Honest about my needs
Isolates me	Deepens relationships

3 KINDS OF HEALTHY KAUCHESIS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. BOASTING IN WEAKNESS

John Piper says 'never waste your weakness'. When we boast and glory in our weakness, then our ego can die a bit more and then we can truly glory in the grace and love of God! Reflect quietly on the following passages. Discuss what you hear...

2 Corinthians 11:5

I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But God 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.

2. BOASTING IN OTHERS

Paul often comments that he glories, delights or boasts in other people! Reflect quietly on the following passages. Discuss what you hear...

2 Corinthians 7:4

I take great pride (kauchesis) in you...

2 Thessalonians 1:4

I boast (kauchesis) about your perseverance and faith...

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory (kauchesis) in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? It is you!

Perhaps God delights, glories, rejoices, boasts in some things too? Perhaps that's why God made us? To delight in what we might become!

3. BOASTING IN THE CROSS

Glorying/boasting in the cross of Jesus means not puffing yourself up with pride, and not trying to *be* someone, because you already *are* someone; someone worth dying for!

Reflect quietly on the following passage. Discuss what you hear...

Galatians 6:14

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

FINISH IN PRAYER