

2 Cor 10:7-18 How to Biblically Boast.

1. **Be a WYSIWYG Christian** - What You See Is What You Get (v11). Goal: simply be who God made you to be. How?
 - a. **Identity in the Lord** (See myself as the Lord does, not judging by outward appearances or arbitrary standards (v.7). Don't compare yourself to others.
 - b. **Stop the preoccupation with Self.** Why do people brag or pretend?
 - i. **Filling:** the inner emptiness. 2 main ways: deflate the other person or inflate myself. Our worth comes from Jesus.
 - ii. **Feeling:** Braggers get a dopamine hit on the brain (it's about self).

V.12&18 Bad boasting:

The thief of Joy is (prideful) comparison (Teddy Roosevelt). 10% of our daily thoughts involve comparisons. CS Lewis: "*Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man... It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest.* Paul ruthlessly eliminated any form of comparison by 1. stopping comparisons and 2. pointing to something greater. 1 Cor. 4:3-4 *I don't let you judge me, I don't even judge myself, I let God alone judge me.*

Beautiful Boasting:

2. **Boast in the Lord.** V.13-17 Quotes Jer. 9:23-24 *Don't boast in your wisdom, strength or riches. Boast that you know the Lord.* 1 Corinthians 1:30-31- We don't deserve anything we have, even ministry gifts. That wisdom, strength and riches, is simply a gift from Him anyway. So: Yes, boast! But boast in the Lord (v. 17) not in self. Eph. 2:10 *It is by grace you have been saved, by faith, lest anyone boast.* We bring nothing to the table except belief and dependence on Another. V18 Let the Lord commend you. Ultimately it's only God's opinion that matters. Simply be faithful in who he made you to be. 1 Cor. 7:17 *let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.*

Grow Group Questions:

1. Think about times you've felt tempted to be something or someone else. What are the reasons for that tug?
2. As a believer, how does seeing myself as God sees me (through truth and not subjective feelings or comparison) completely change how I act?
3. Why is our great problem a preoccupation with self? What would change if I focused less on myself? What about marriage?
4. Discuss social media. What are the dangers? How should my relationship (or my family's) change with social media?
5. How does boasting in the Lord change my life?

Announcements 1/21

- Cupcakes for Life - Today in the Lobby! - \$10 Donation helps a mother in need.
- Men's Bible Study - New Date! Will be meeting Tuesday Nights at 7pm in the Upstairs Classroom in Fellowship Hall starting Jan. 23.
- Worship Collective: Night of Unity - Jan 24 at 6:30p In the Sanctuary - Extended time of worship and prayer!
- CHROME Mission Pre-Trip Meeting - Jan 28 at 12:45p in Fellowship Hall Classroom - Mandatory for those going on the upcoming Mission Trip to Marianna, FL.
- Breakfast for Life - Feb. 3 at 8:45a in the Fellowship Hall - Enjoy a free breakfast and connect with other life-affirming Christians and Ministries.