

Open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 4:7. We're continuing our series, "Respectable Sins."

- We've been thinking about sins that don't often come to our minds when we think about sin.

- We've been considering sins that often fly under the radar, don't get talked about much, aren't thought on often, and have become "acceptable" to some degree in the lives of many.

- And this morning we come to the Sin of Pride.

Pride is not usually the first sin that we think of when we think about sin.

- At least, not pride in ourselves.

- Pride is one of those sins that is really easy to spot in others, but not so easy to spot in ourselves. At least, until someone points it out to us.

- But when we see it in others, we recognize it as despicable and awful.

- We hate pride. We just don't usually hate our own pride.

Now, pride is a pretty big subject. There are many nuances and aspects of pride that we could consider.

- So, I'd like to narrow it down to something more manageable for this morning.

- This is the kind of pride I want to talk about from our text today: An attitude of self-satisfaction, an elevated self-evaluation that comes from what you are, possess, have done, or have not done.

- To think highly of yourself because of your gifts, graces, abilities, and success compared to others

around.

I'll go ahead and give the sermon away right now:

- Being proud is a sin because the proud person arrogantly acts as if all they have, are, have done, or have not done comes from themselves.

- Pride is a sin because the proud man has forgotten God in his life and therefore, in one way or another, attributes every good thing to himself alone.

Brothers and sisters, my goal for this sermon is to see God humble each and every one of us.

- Maybe you are very proud and good at hiding it.

- Maybe you are not so proud all the time, but pride surfaces in certain instances.

- Maybe you are very humble toward your fellow Christians, but very proud in your heart toward the unbeliever.

- But I think that all of us could use some humbling in some way.

- And, if that's not what you need, this sermon will still magnify the grace of God toward you and give you much kindling to start a fire of praise to God in your heart.

So, this morning I want us to consider areas of our lives in which we are tempted to be proud because we have forgotten the grace of God in it all.

- And, by God's grace, we will leave here today knowing, owning, and rejoicing in the truth that all we have, and all we are, we have received from our gracious God.

- May God bless the preaching of His Word.

If you would, and are able, please stand with me now for the reading of the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

(PRAY)

Our gracious God,

•Help us this morning to profit from your preached Word.

•Work in our hearts and cause us to see your goodness toward us.

•Help us to see and know and be convinced that all is of grace. And that you have been singularly kind to us.

•Cause us, by your Word and Spirit, to trace all we have back to you, the Fountain of all Goodness and Blessing.

•Grant that we would leave here saying, “Our only boast in the LORD.”

•We ask these things in Jesus’ Name and for His sake.

•Amen.

1.) Before we dive in to our subject, we need to understand the context and do some exposition of this verse.

•The Apostle says, “For who sees anything different in

you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?"

First, I want to humbly take issue with the ESV's rendering of the first question in our text.

- It says, "For who sees anything different in you?"
- And that is a legitimate rendering of the Greek, from what I've read.
- BUT, there is another way that it can be rendered that I personally think makes more sense in the context.
- The KJV puts it like this: "For who maketh thee to differ from another?"
- In other words, "Who makes you different from each other? Who makes one man to be different from another man?"
- More literally, it says, "For who distinguishes you? Who makes one man distinguishable from another?"

I'm going to go with the KJV on this one.

- This is how many of our forefathers understood it. And I think I'm in safe company with them.
- Also, I think it makes good sense with the rest of the verse, as I think you'll see as I continue.

Now, to the CONTEXT: We're dropping in the Apostle's argument to and rebuke of the Corinthian Church.

- You see, Paul was addressing a problem in that church.
- Factions had formed among them. Believers were boasting in their abilities, spiritual gifts, preferred

teachers, groups, status in the church, and other things.

- They were divided in a horrible way. And in their division, they were “puffed up” against one another, as Paul says in v6.

- They were thinking and behaving arrogantly toward one another. They were full of pride.

- The main reason for their pride seems to be because they each championed their own group within the church under various leaders.

- But, looking at the rest of the book, it seems they were proud and puffed up for multiple reasons.

- And in this verse, the Apostle strikes at the heart of all their pride.

I want to recognize that the Apostle is dealing with a specific problem of sectarian pride within the church.

- But, nevertheless, what he says here is a broadly applicable truth. It’s relevant for all kinds of pride.

There is a holy logic in this verse that kills pride when we receive it by faith.

- When we are proud, we are thinking that all we have comes from our own hand, hard work, natural abilities, wise decisions, morality, or whatever.

- But the Apostle says, “For who makes you to be different from another?”

- Who made you different? Who made you what you are? Who made you distinguishable from other people in what you have, can do, or any other thing?

- Who is responsible for you being different from other people? Who is responsible for who and what you are?

The answer is GOD.

- God makes us all different from each other. God gives gifts. God gives abilities. God gives success. God is the source and reason for all that we are.

- Everything can be traced back to His hand in our creation and His divine providence over our lives.

- We are not what we are because we are so great. Rather, we are what we are by the grace of the God who makes men to differ from one another.

What are we? We are nothing.

- Look at God and compare yourself to Him.

- Are you in control of your life?

- Did you determine when you'd be born, how you'd be born, what your body would be like, what family you'd have, what privileges that you'd have?

- Did you determine anything about your life? Did you bless yourself? Is it you who have been taking care of you all your life?

- Do you determine your strength? Do you determine your intelligence? Do you determine anything?

- It would be a stupid and foolish thing to say, "Yes," to any of those questions.

- God alone makes men to differ. God alone distinguishes one man from another in gifts and graces and every other thing that makes us different.

So then, in light of that, Paul says, "What do you have that you did not receive?"

- And we are compelled to answer, "NOTHING."

- All that have, we have by grace. All that we have,

comes from the hand of God Almighty.

- As James 1:17 reminds us, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...”

- All that you have has been given to you.

Are you smart?

- “But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand.” (Job 32:8)

Do you have natural abilities and strength?

- “Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God...” (Psalm 62:11)

Are you healthy?

- “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health...” (3 John 1:2)

- Prayer is offered for health because health is of God.

Do you have material wealth?

- “The LORD makes poor and makes rich...” (1 Sam. 2:7)

Do you have a family?

- “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.” (Proverbs 18:22)

- “Joseph said to his father, ‘They are my sons, whom God has given me here...’” (Genesis 48:9)

Do you have power or status?

- “He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings...” (Daniel 2:21)

Are you beautiful or handsome?

- “...you knitted me together in my mother’s womb...”
(Psalm 139:13)

Are you a believer?

- “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth...” (James 1:18)

Do you have a spiritual gift?

- “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...” (Romans 12:6)

Are you a righteous person?

- “Then God said to him in the dream, ‘Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me...’ (Genesis 20:6)

Brothers and sisters, let me ask again:

- “What do you have that you did not receive?”
- All is of God. All that you are and have or have not done is because God has been gracious and kind to you.

And that’s why Paul goes on to ask a stinging question to anyone who would be proud of what they are and have:

- “If then you received it, WHY DO YOU BOAST as if you did not receive it?”
- What in the world are you bragging about?
- Why are you proud? You simply received a gift. What

do you have to puff your chest out about?

- Where does your sense of superiority come from?
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! You RECEIVED from God!

- That's it. You're not that important. God could've given the same exact things to someone else. But He GRACIOUSLY chose to give them to you.

- If all you have, you have received and not earned, you have received and not bought, you have received and not merited, THEN WHY ARE YOU PROUD?

Brothers and sisters, I think Paul's point is that our gifts are given to glorify the Giver, not the recipient.

- Let me steal from Charles Spurgeon for a minute:

- God is the Potter and we are the clay.

- Now, what clay vessel can come off the wheel and say, "I am great! Look at how great I am. I deserve to be this way. I deserve praise for what I am. I did this to myself."

- That is ludicrous. If clay could talk, the only thing for it to say would be, "Look what THE POTTER DID to me! Look at how well He shaped me! Look at how glorious of a use He made me for! The Potter is amazing! And I am the work of His gracious hands. He has been kind. And I am blessed because of HIM!"

Hear me: Your gifts, graces, abilities, success, knowledge, everything is a gift from God!

- So then, you ought to exalt Him and not yourself! That's the point of it all!

- God has given you all that you have FOR HIS GLORY and not yours.

- Furthermore, to have received much is simply to have been made a greater debtor to the Giver.

- Who can boast about their debt? It would be a ridiculous thing to boast about how much you owe another.

- And we owe all that we are to God. So all we can rightly do is boast in Him who has indebted us so much to Himself by pure and sovereign grace.

To constantly ask yourself the questions of this verse will produce hearts of gratitude and deep humility in every believer.

- “For who makes you to be different from another? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”

- This whole thing is a pride destroyer.

2.) So, clearly then, the Apostle forbids pride in this text by forbidding boasting.

- And I say that because boasting is an expression of pride. It’s a manifestation of a proud heart.

- And Scripture forbids pride in many places. It even calls it a reason for God’s judgment.

- Proverbs 8:13 says, “The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.”

- Proverbs 16:5 says, “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.”

- And, most famously, Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

- Brothers and sisters, God hates all vain-boasting, arrogance, and pride.

To boast is to magnify yourself, make much of yourself, and glorify yourself.

- It is to celebrate yourself and your achievements.
- It is to think highly of yourself and give no credit to the LORD for what you are, have, or have accomplished.
- It is a proud heart that boasts.

And let's be clear about something: You can be proud, you can boast, and it be verbal or nonverbal.

- You can show your pride openly to others in how you talk about yourself and brag.

- OR, you can boast of yourself in your heart. You can have a proud heart where, though you're too ashamed to say it out loud, you give the glory to yourself.

- And catch this: A proud heart will inevitably reveal itself.

- It will come out in how you treat others, talk about others, talk to others, or silently think about others.

- You will have contempt, you will look down on your fellow man, even your fellow Christian, if you have a proud heart.

- And why shouldn't you? They should be just like you. And you did it all yourself. So why can't they be more like you?

3.) Let's take some time and think about some of the graces of God that we sinfully turn to pride.

1. First, let's consider our standing in this world.

- I'm talking about your material possessions. Your money. Your success in business, school, or career. Your abilities. Your plans that have to come pass. Your status and influence in your sphere of life. Those kinds of things.

- Often we will look around at our lives, our homes, our money, our success, our standing and develop what I call Nebuchadnezzar Syndrome.

- This is where you look at everything and say, "Look at my kingdom that I've built with my own two hands. I've done this. I deserve this. My strength has done it."

- You worked hard, you planned well, you did what was necessary, you studied, you persevered, you denied yourself, you pushed on, and now you take all the credit for all that you have.

And, as a result, you begin to look at others who do not have what you do, or are not as successful as you and you think:

- "If they were as smart as me, worked as hard as me, were as wise as me, were as cunning as me, planned like me, set themselves up like I did, and all the reset, they could have what I have. But, since they don't have what I do, it's simply because I'm better, smarter, or whatever, than they are."

- And you look down on others while taking all the credit for yourself.

Now, hear me: I'm not denying that you worked hard, planned well, were wise, practiced the virtue of delayed gratification, studied hard, or anything else.

- The Bible tells us that we are to do these things and

that there is often blessing and reward for them.

- BUT, I will ask you this: Where did you get the ability to do those things?

- Where did your wisdom come from? Where did your fortunate circumstances come from? Where did your natural gifting come from? Where did your work ethic come from?

- Do you think that's all you? You must, if you're proud because of all that you have and have accomplished.

- You must, because you look down on others who do not have what you have. So you must, deep down, believe that it was really all you.

But what does the Apostle say?

- “What do you have that you did not receive?”

- All of your intelligence, work ethic, ability to work, diligence and everything else came from the Lord.

- You didn't put yourself where you're at. The Lord has blessed the works of your hands. And He could've just as easily not.

- In fact, sometimes God chooses to frustrate even the best plans and hardest work because it is His holy will to do so.

- But if He didn't do that to you, then all you have is of grace.

- So why do you boast?

2. But let's get to spiritual things now: Some people who have been Christians for a good bit of time can begin to be proud that they are a Christian.

- Now, listen: It's good to be proud to be a Christian in the sense that you are UNASHAMED of being one. But

that's not what I'm talking about.

- The kind of pride in being a Christian that is sinful is an attitude that looks at the unbeliever with contempt.

You think in your heart, "They are too stupid to believe the Gospel."

- Or, "I don't understand what is so hard. Just submit to the Lord and believe on Him and be saved from your wickedness."

- And you puff out your chest in pride because you, deep down, believe that it is because you are so smart that you came to Christ.

- And so, the reason why the unbeliever refuses Christ must be because they're dumber than you. They don't see a good offer when it's put right in front of them.

- Because they don't see what you saw. And you think that you saw it because you were wise enough to see your need all by yourself. And you were smart enough to choose Christ to save you.

Brothers and sisters, I see this in some of us.

- I see it in myself sometimes.

- We look at the unbeliever with contempt. And we look at ourselves as Christians with a hint of pride.

- Oh, we might declare with our lips that we are saved by sovereign grace. We might declare doctrinally that we are only saved by God's choosing and doing all things for us.

- But we betray what is in our hearts by how we think about and talk about unbelievers who refuse Christ.

Now, listen: Those who refuse to come to Christ are

fools of the highest order. That's true.

- But you were once a fool. You were not born a Christian.

- What roused you from your foolish rebellion against Christ, but God's grace toward you?

- It is because of God that you saw your sin rightly. It's because He gave you a sight of your sin, His wrath, and the bloody Cross of Christ, that you became a Christian.

- Yes, you chose Christ. And it was the wisest decision you ever made in your life.

- But why did you choose what you chose? Why did you choose Christ?

- I'll tell you why: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:3-6)

You're a Christian because God chose you.

- Because God sent His Son to live, die, and be raised for you for the forgiveness of your sins.

- Because God the Holy Spirit regenerated your dead heart and gave you the gift of faith and united you to the Lord Jesus Christ.

- You're a Christian because you trust in Christ. But the reason you trust in Christ and others don't is because God had mercy on you and has graciously given you eyes to see, ears to hear, a heart that desires Christ, a

will to choose Him, and faith to receive Him.

- That's not your doing. That's not your wisdom. That's the grace of God.

- Again, I say, "What do you have that you did not receive?"

3. Another thing that Christians are often proud of is their soundness of doctrine.

- You have come to understand that much of what you were taught was unbiblical. Much of modern evangelicalism is junk. And now you have a pretty solid understanding of many biblical doctrines.

- And what do you do with that? You begin to have a big head. And you think that you understand what you understand because you're smart enough to see it.

- And the reason why your parents, grandparents, old pastors, family members, and friends don't believe what you now do, is because they're just too stupid to understand the Bible.

If they would just read the Bible, they'd see what you see. Right?

- If they would just apply themselves, they'd arrive at the same conclusions that you do.

- If they would just do what you did, everything would be fine.

- But because they don't, you look down on them.

Maybe even question if they're saved or not.

- You have no respect for what they do understand. And you're contentious with them. You're always pointing out the flaws in their doctrine and never rejoicing with them in what you share in common in Christ.

Do you see the pride there?

- You think that you understand the Bible because you're smarter than them. Or because they're lazy and simply won't study (whether or not that is true.)
- But that's not why you understand things that they don't. That's not why you've gotten as far as you have in your theological studies.
- God has shown you things in His Word at a faster rate than He has shown them.
- God has given you a good mind to think systematically through the Bible.
- God has enlightened your mind to understand things more clearly than others.
- That's the only reason you've progressed as far as you have. God has been kind to you in a great way.
- But it's not owing to your goodness or smarts.
- I'll tell you this: Smarter men than you are not Reformed.
- It's not a matter of intelligence. It's a matter of God opening your eyes to behold wonderful things in His Word and giving you grace to submit to it.
- **"What do you have that you did not receive?"**

4. I'll tell you another thing that I see some of us, including myself, trending toward at times:

- Pride that we do not commit certain sins.
- I call this Moral Pride.

If you're a Christian, you are living a righteous life.

- You are putting sin to death, one sin at a time.
- You are striving for righteousness. You are growing.

And you really are becoming more and more practically righteous in your life.

- You're not sinless. And you never will be until you die and are glorified. But you really are growing in righteousness, as God would have you.

- And because of this, there are tons of things you will not do. There are many sins that you do not commit.

- Especially the flagrant and most grievous ones. They disgust you. You cringe at the thought of committing them, as you should.

- There is a growing list of sins that you do not commit, do not desire, and do not see how anyone thinks they are pleasurable or a good idea to do.

- You are growing more and more to see sin rightly.

But this can easily turn to pride.

- Where you begin to look at the sins of our culture, and those who gladly commit them, and you turn up your nose to them in disgust and self-righteousness.

- You look at those who practice sodomy, those who murder their children, those who abuse drugs and alcohol, those who mutilate their bodies, those who encourage children to do the same, those who love fornication, those who love perversity, and others who commit heinous sins and you begin to puff your chest out in pride.

- You think to yourself, or maybe you even say, "I WOULD NEVER DO THAT!"

- Or, "I cannot believe that anyone could bring themselves to do such a horrible thing."

- Or, "Even in my unbelieving days, I would not have ever crossed that line."

•Or, “Those people are flatly disgusting. And I won’t have anything whatsoever to do with them.”

And in all of this it is evident that you feel a sense of superiority against those people.

•You hold them in contempt. And, in doing so, you elevate yourself in your own mind.

•When you talk about the sins of others, maybe even of fellow Christians, you feel a sense of exhilaration and it makes you feel good about yourself.

•And here is what’s going on: In looking at the sins of others, you are really convinced that you have not, or would not commit those sins because you’re just too moral and righteous to do those things.

•You think that you don’t commit the grievous sins that others do because those sins are beyond you. Those sins are farther than you’d ever go. Those sins could never be appealing to you because you’re too inherently righteous to ever find them desirable.

But is that the case? Is it because of you that you haven’t committed those sins?

•Is it because you’re too good that you’ve never done those things?

•Or is it because God restrained you in your unregenerate state and kept you from them?

•Even now, God’s hand of mercy restrains your remaining corruption so you don’t fall into heinous sin.

•It’s not in you. You could’ve been one of them, had God not been merciful to you. He could’ve handed you over to ever sin and let you go completely your own way.

•It is by His grace that you have not fallen as far as you could've, even when you were an unbeliever.

I'll let Charles Spurgeon take it from here:

•“Grace hath done it, and nothing else. When we pass a prostitute in the street we say, ‘O poor creature! I can pity you. I have not a harsh word for you, for I had been as you are had not God preserved me.’

•And when you see the reeling drunkard, be not too hasty to condemn. Recollect you had been as a beast before God unless the Lord had kept you.

•And when ye hear the oath and shudder at it, imagine not that you are superior in yourself to the man who curses God. For perhaps you once cursed Him too.

•And certainly you would have done it had not the Holy Spirit sanctified you and implanted in you a hatred of that which the wicked so greedily follow...

•...say, ‘Oh! But I should have gone as low as that, I should have been as black as he, unless restraining grace had kept me back in my unregeneracy, and unless constraining grace had pushed me forward in the heavenly race, ever since I have known the will of Jesus.’”

Pride can live only with the man who has always been good and has no need of grace.

•So it can't live with us. For we are sinners to whom God has given mercy and made holy and is still making holy.

•“What do you have that you did not receive?”

4.) Brothers and sisters, do you see the sinfulness

of pride?

- To be proud, at root, is to forget God.
- You've taken Him completely out of the picture. And in your proud boasting you have begun to believe that all you are and have, has been by your own merit and intrinsic goodness.
- In your pride, you negate the grace of God and make it NOTHING.

And consider that for a moment!

- You, a sinner, are claiming in your heart and by your contempt for others that you have entirely earned something in this life.
- In your pride, you believe that you deserve something other than eternal damnation, and that's why you have all that you do.
- What utter nonsense!
- Let the unbeliever think those things. But those who know that they are sinners must reject such thinking as complete and total foolishness.

See then, that to be proud is to lie.

- It's to lie to yourself, primarily.
- You are the blessed one. You are the debtor to God. You are the blessed, not the Benefactor.
- But in your pride, you believe that you have blessed yourself.
- You're a liar. You have lied to yourself. And you've begun to believe your own lies.
- You are at once the deceived and the deceiver.

To be proud is to be an unthankful person.

- For if all things are by your own strength and wisdom and goodness, to whom do you have to be thankful?

- YOURSELF! You will believe that you are to be praised for all things. To you be the glory forever and ever.

And that leads us to the worst conclusion: To be proud is to be a glory thief.

- By taking God and His grace toward you out of the equation, you have left only yourself as the root of all the good you have.

- You are thankful to yourself. You praise yourself. You adore yourself and your skills and your goodness.

- Brothers and sisters, pride is self-idolatry.

- You are worshipping yourself, you are glorying in yourself instead of the God to whom you owe all things.

It is no wonder then, that God says that the proud are an abomination to Him.

- It is no wonder then, that God says that He has a day appointed for the proud, where they will be judged for their arrogance.

- To be proud is to make yourself your own god. For you recognize no other besides you.

My dear friends, wherever there is pride in our lives, we must repent.

- We must repent or we will suffer the consequences of our pride.

- God promises to humble the proud. I don't know how He'll do it in your life. But He'll do it. He's done it to countless of His People. And it is painful.

- So fear His discipline and repent. Return to the Lord and own His grace in your entire life.

Repent and look to Christ who is your righteousness and your substitute who has taken away your sins.

- As I've said throughout this series, there is forgiveness for us, for Christ has suffered for our sins in our place. There is always forgiveness for those who look to Christ for mercy.

- But we must repent. God will receive us and give us communion with Himself. He will cleanse us. He will restore us. He will make us glad.

- But we must repent.

And let me warn you: Pride is just a hairsbreadth away from formal legalism.

- To boast that you're a Christian, to boast in your morality, to boast in your knowledge, is just a step away from beginning to forsake Christ and cling to your own works and wisdom.

- And those who forsake Christ for their own merits, those who believe that they have something to offer God, will perish.

- Beware of pride, lest you forsake Christ, fall away and perish.

- The Elect of God will hear and heed this warning and be preserved. So hear it and heed it well.

5.) So what then, is the remedy for pride?

- The remedy for pride is to boast in the Lord.

Earlier in this letter, the Apostle tells the Corinthians,

- “...Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”
(1 Corinthians 1:31)
- Boast in the Lord. Give Him the praise!
- Trace His hand through all your blessings. Look into all that you are and have and look to the Scriptures to see that it is all from Him.
- Remember His sovereignty. Remember that nobody gets anything without His decree.
- Remember your unworthiness. That you’re a sinner. That you deserve damnation for your rebellion. And so, all that you are and have **MUST BE OWING TO GOD’S GRACE.**
- And, thinking on these things, **BOAST IN HIM!**

Brothers and sisters, we’re going to boast in something.

- We’re going to worship something. We’re going to give credit to someone for all that we have.
- We’re designed to do so. We’re going to give praise and thanks to someone for our lives.
- So instead of looking to ourselves, let’s be biblical and honest and pious and look up to Heaven and say, “**THIS IS ALL OF GOD’S DOING! This is all by His grace!**”
- As Paul said, “**But by the grace of God I am what I am...**” (1 Corinthians 15:10)
- Turn every temptation to praise yourself into an occasion to praise the Living God for His grace toward you.

Every time you look at your life and all that you

have, ask yourself, “What do you have that you did not receive?”

- Every time you look at your life and what you are and what you are not, ask yourself, “What do you have that you did not receive?”

- Every time that you’re tempted to elevate yourself or look down on another, ask yourself, “If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”

- And if you will only be honest with yourself, you will be led to boast in the Lord, for He is the source of all.

- And you will be compelled to confess: “It’s not because I’m so great. It’s because God is so kind.”

So, brothers and sisters, boast in the Lord!

- We are His workmanship.

- All that we have, we have received.

You know, as Reformed Christians, we often say, “*Soli Deo Gloria.*”

- That is, “Glory to God alone.”

- That’s one of the core doctrines of our Christian Faith.

That God alone deserves all glory.

- So let’s live like it.

- Enough of self-glorifying.

- Give glory to God alone.

May God help us to kill our pride by His Word and Spirit.

- Amen.

