

DOCTRINE OF BOASTING

September 28, 1982

I. Preliminary considerations.

A. The word group includes:

1. verb καυχάομαι, kauchaomai: to boast (38X).
2. noun καύχημα, kauchema: ground of boasting (11X).
3. noun καύχησις, kauchesis: boasting (12X).
4. verb ἐγκαυχάομαι, egkauchaomai: to boast (1X).
5. verb κατακαυχάομαι, katakauchaomai: to boast against or in triumphant comparison (4X).

B. Usage outside the New Testament (NT).

1. Among the Greeks, it was usually used in a bad sense.
2. The Old Testament (OT) contains many proverbs against it, cp. 1Kgs.20:11; Ps.49:9; 52; 94:4; Prov.25:14; 27:1; cp. 20:34. At the same time, the OT speaks of justifiable boasting, cp. Jer.9:24.

C. Within the NT Paul almost exclusively uses the word group, the exceptions being James (6X: Jam.1:9; 2:13; 3:14; 4:16) and the writer of Hebrews (1X: Heb.3:6).

II. Boasting sponsored by the sinful trend of Adam (STA).

A. God is the Almighty before whom all arrogant boasting will be silenced, 1Cor.1:26-29; 3:18-21; Ezek.35:13,14; Jer.50:29,31; Isa.47:7.

B. Some specific areas of STA boasting, cp. Jer.9:23,24.

1. Wealth, Ps.49:6.
2. Wisdom, 1Cor.1:26-29.
3. Power, Judg.7:2 (any kind).
4. Tomorrow, Jam.4:16; Prov.27:1.
5. Others, 1Cor.3:21 "*so then let no one boast in men*".
6. Toleration of evil, 1Cor.5:6 (failure to separate and remove the incestuous Corinthian).
7. Appearance, 2Cor.5:12.
8. Anti-Semitism, Rom.11:18; be it theologically or politically sponsored, cp. Ezek.35:13.
9. Religion without truth, Rom.2:17-23.
10. Crime and conspiracy, Ps.10:3,4; 52:1; 94:4; Prov.20:14.
11. A distorted sense of how you got where you are, 1Cor.4:7,17.
12. In what is not yours by divine allotment, 2Cor.10:13,15,16; 11:12.
13. False teachers in their followers, Gal.6:13.

III. Sanctified boasting.

A. Things to keep in mind.

1. "Sanctified" boasting is in God and His plan, never in self, Rom.15:17 "*Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God*"; 1Cor.1:31; Jer.9:23,24; 2Cor.10:17.
2. Grace and faith precludes self-boasting, Rom.3:27 "*Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.*"

3. Boasting in the Christian is never in relationship to others but only by self scrutiny by measuring oneself by the Word of God, Gal.6:4 *"But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another"*; cp. 2Cor.10:12,16.
 4. All boasting must be outside self as centered in the person and work of Christ, Gal.6:14; Phil.3:3.
- B. Some specific examples and areas in which the believer can boast (these areas overlap).
1. The Cross, Gal.6:14; Phil.3:3.
 2. Knowing Bible Doctrine, Jer.9:24 *"But let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things, declares the Lord."*
 3. Suffering, Rom.5:3; cp. Jam.1:24; 2Cor.1:3ff.
 4. "Right" congregation, 2Cor.7:4,14; 8:24; 9:26; Phil.1:26; 2Thess.1:4; 1Cor.14:31.
 5. "Right" Pastor, 2Cor.5:12.
 6. Adherence to one's policy, 1Cor.9:15,16; 2Cor.11:10.
 7. Surpassing grace blessings in Phase 3, Rom.5:2; Heb.3:6.
 8. One's niche, 2Cor.10:13,15,16; 11:30.
 9. How one conducts one's ministry, 2Cor.1:12 *"For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you."*
 10. One's authority in the ministry, 2Cor.10:8 *"For even if I should boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I shall not be put to shame."*
 11. At the Bema seat itself, 2Cor.1:14 *"Just as you also in part did understand us, that we are your reason to be proud as you also are ours, in that day of our Lord Jesus"*; Phil.2:16; 1Thess.2:19 *"crown of boasting"*.

IV. If salvation were by works, not by grace through faith, men could boast, Rom.3:27; 4:2; Eph.2:8,9.

V. Summary.

- A. Sanctified boasting involves the ability and willingness to apply spiritual realities to your niche, Jam.1:9,10 *"But let the brother of humble circumstances boast in his high position; and let the rich man boast in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away."*
- B. Sanctified boasting places no confidence in the flesh as giving anyone an edge when it comes to the three adjustments, Phil.3:3.
- C. Resolve. *"In God we have boasted all day long, and we will give thanks to Your name forever"*, Ps.44:8.

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