

TITLE: Who Gets the Glory? (or “The Boast Detox”)

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Big Idea

Boasting shifts attention away from God and onto ourselves. True detox happens when we replace self-promotion with God-promotion—when we let our lives and words highlight His greatness, not our own.

Introduction – Worship Team Illustration

But wait. Who are we really clapping for? Them? Or God?

See. They *are* amazing. They work hard. they use their gifts faithfully. But if our praise stops with them it never makes it To the One it's actually for

That's what we're talking about today. Boasting. Self-promotion. Doesn't really seem wrong. But problem with boasting... It takes the spotlight that belongs to God and shines it on people and more often on ourselves. And that's dangerous.”

Point 1: The Subtle Sin of Boasting

“Some sins are obvious. Lying, stealing, cheating, murder, kicking your dog. no one argues those are wrong. But boasting? Talking about yourself? That doesn't sound like a big deal, does it?

Sometimes it even sounds spiritual. We say things like, ‘Look what I did for God,’ or ‘Look how much I've grown.’

But Jesus warns us about this.

Matthew 6:1

Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others,

for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.

Notice He doesn't say don't do good things. He says don't do them *to be seen*.

Even in preparing for this Message I wanted to tell my friends Hey I'm preaching this sunday Drop in and watch me! Look how much I've grown Ultimately saying Look at me! Look at how cool I am!

Still doesn't seem all that bad Obvious reasons Of course Want friends watch Support me Want Friends see what I do

The question underneath is this:
Who am I really doing this for?”

Boasting isn't always loud it's often subtle. It's when I give, serve, post, or even pray with this little whisper in my heart:

I hope they notice.

And that hits hard for me Everything I do That voice is there

I hope they laugh at this joke See me as the funny guy I hope prayer hits home They see me as good prayer warrior I hope this new shirt I wear gets comments Others see me as cool shirt guy

Glasses All know Make smarter Cooler More attractive But don't even need Just glass
Got in college For those reasons I hope they notice me

How often that voice whispers to me I desire it so frequently And I know I can't be the only one

Point 2: Exposing the Root of Boasting

So when talking about boasting We really need to know Where does it even come from?

Usually one of two places: insecurity or pride

Insecurity: I need you to notice me because I don't feel valuable without your approval.

I need validation That I'm important

If someone doesn't like my new shirt I'll never wear it again If someone doesn't laugh at joke
Maybe I'm not really funny at all

Hits me hard Hits students hard

Pride:

I want you to notice me because I believe I'm more important than you.

I'm better than you Look at me I'm more skilled than you Look at me I have more experience
Look at me Either way, the spotlight ends up on me.

Dale Carnegie said How to win friends and influence people one of the deepest needs of the human heart is the desire to feel important. And isn't that true? I hope they notice me

Abraham Lincoln Remembered

You don't even have to teach a child this. A kid quickly learns to say? *'Watch me! Watch me!'*
'Dad, did you see?! I jumped off the curb!' Did you see? I drew a dog Did you see? I rode bike
with no handlebars Friends I preached the sermon today we never really outgrow that.

We just learn to dress it up with adult words.

Even in conversation, we slip into it. You know how sometimes you're not even listening You're just waiting for your turn to talk?

Oh, you went to Hawaii? That's great. Speaking of Hawaii let me tell you about how cool Bionicles are and how I have been collecting more N64 games And how I got a promotion at work I'm doing sales now And how I got smacked in the face With a softball

That's the 'watch me' in us. That's boasting's root."

Point 3: The Redirect – What to Boast In

Now boasting In itself Is not bad God doesn't just say, 'Stop boasting.' He actually tells us what to boast about instead.

Jeremiah 9:23–24

23 This is what the Lord says: "Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power,

or the rich boast in their riches. 24 But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and

understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness

to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken!

In other words

God isn't against boasting He is against self-boasting

He is against self promotion

Got an A+ in calculus? Don't boast in it
Got a new promotion at work? Don't boast in it
Got money for N64 games? Don't boast in it

Those who wish to boast, Boast in The one who gave Wisdom Power Money He invites us to redirect our boasting to Him.

He says, 'If you're going to lift something up, let it be Me. If you're going to shine a spotlight, aim it at My love, My justice, My righteousness.'"

Here's the deal Boasting feels like I can't say anything good about myself Or others
Because then focused on self And all the good in my own life

But no you can Great things happen to you And you can share about them Even be proud of them

But how often Do you have to acknowledge The one who gave you the gifts Talents Skills
Power Money
How often?

The question isn't, Am I boasting? It's, Who am I boasting about?

Can 100% be excited about good in life As long as redirect it And say Because God...
The redirection is crucial

Point 4: The Serious Danger of Boasting

"Because here's the truth If we don't redirect the spotlight, boasting doesn't just sit quietly. It grows.

Remember boasting caused by insecurity and pride

Pride is the root sin that got Satan cast out of heaven. Pride turns conversations into competitions. Pride blinds us.

Think of it like a flashlight. A flashlight is supposed to Light the way For people to see For you to see For others to see But what happens if i just hold it at myself

I can't see Right? All I can see is the flashlight Nothing else is getting in But the spotlight I'm putting on myself

Truthfully I'm blinding everyone else

Flashlight example We live in world of darkness And you have the light to shine the way Aka Jesus But all do is shine on self All others can see is you And therefore Blind to all other things Blind to the truth Blind to the way Blind to the life Blind to Jesus Because all they see is you

That's what boasting does **It blinds people to God by keeping the light stuck on us.**

Pause here Repeat

Paul understood this.

Galatians 6:14

As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Did you catch that?

Paul The guy who planted churches, wrote most of new testament Was honestly Probably a big deal In early church Everyone knew him

He says, The only thing worth boasting about Is Jesus

Ready for the real zinger Boasting about self Self promotion Ultimately Idolatry It's taking glory that belongs to God and redirecting it to me

When boasting about self When focused on self Saying I have learned nothing From the Bible From the lives of the Israelites

Doesn't feel like it Boasting seems so small But exact same thing

And God would let them be conquered Because of it

Point 5: The Detox Path – Redirect the Spotlight

“So how do we detox from boasting? I’ve said it already We redirect

My pastor in California recently said this in a sermon *We’ve taken our eyes off the goodness of God and put them on ourselves.*

That’s boasting The detox is to shift our eyes back To the one who deserves it

When I feel the need to highlight myself, I stop and ask: *How can I highlight God instead?*

When I’m tempted to say, ‘Look what I’ve done,’ I reframe it: ‘Look what God has done through me.’

I aced that test because I studied so hard. Redirect I’m thankful God gave me the focus and the mind to learn.

I earned that promotion because I’m the best at my job Redirect God opened that door and gave me the skills to do my job well

That’s not false humility It’s testimony. About what God is doing

Conclusion – Closing Challenge

“So here’s the heart check for us: who gets the glory from my words? When I tell stories, when I make jokes, when I share what I’ve done does it stop with me, or does it point to God?

And If get nothing else from this message Remember this
When people hear your words this week,

will they walk away more impressed with you... or with God?

That’s the detox test. That’s how we know if self-boasting has been replaced with God worship.

So let’s live in such a way, speak in such a way, that the applause of our lives doesn’t stop with us... but rises to the One who deserves it all.”