

LESSON 12 — BOASTING IN THE LORD

1. FOUNDATION: THE NATURE OF TRUE VS FALSE TEACHING

- False teachers operate according to human criteria
- An overemphasis on human ability and self-display can indicate error
- Godly teachers, by contrast:
 - Reflect the character of Christ (by God's grace)
- **CLARIFICATION:**
 - This is not about perfection
 - It is about direction
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - The life reveals the source

2. THE DANGER OF INAPPROPRIATE BOASTING

- False teachers often:
 - Gather large followings
 - Display charisma and confidence
 - Exhibit excessive pride
- **INSIGHT:**
 - Inappropriate boasting can signal a lack of grounding in truth
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - Pride often accompanies deception

3. THE ROOT OF PRIDE: THE CHARACTER OF SATAN

- **John 8:44**
 - Satan is the father of lies
- **Ezekiel 28:13–17**
 - Describes Satan's fall:
 - Heart lifted up in pride
 - Wisdom corrupted
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - Pride originates from a departure from God
- **2 Corinthians 3:18**
 - We become what we behold
- **INSIGHT:**
 - Pride, arrogance, and self-exaltation reflect the wrong influence

4. THE CORRECT FOCUS: BOASTING IN THE LORD

- **2 Corinthians 10:17**
 - "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord"
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - All boasting should point to God, not self

5. UNDERSTANDING BOUNDARIES IN MINISTRY

- 2 Corinthians 10:13

- "Measure" (Greek: kanon):

- Boundary
- Assigned sphere

- PRINCIPLE:

- Operate within what God has given
- Do not exceed divine assignment

6. STAYING WITHIN GOD'S ASSIGNMENT

- 2 Corinthians 10:14

- Paul does not stretch beyond his measure

- PRINCIPLE:

- Faithfulness matters more than expansion beyond calling

7. NOT TAKING CREDIT FOR OTHERS' WORK

- 2 Corinthians 10:15

- Paul refuses to boast in another man's labor

- PRINCIPLE:

- Taking credit for what God has not assigned is false and deceptive

- INSIGHT:

- This behavior mirrors false teaching

8. THE EXAMPLE OF SATAN'S FALSE CLAIM

- Luke 4:5–6

- Satan claims authority over the kingdoms of the world

- TRUTH:

- He claims what ultimately does not belong to him

- PRINCIPLE:

- Boasting beyond rightful bounds reflects a satanic pattern

9. RIGHTEOUS BOASTING

- 2 Corinthians 10:17

- We are permitted to boast:

- In the Lord

- APPLICATION:

- Speak of God's goodness
- Testify of His work
- Give Him glory for all victories

- PRINCIPLE:

- If you boast, boast about God

10. CULTURAL CONTEXT: BOASTING IN ANTIQUITY

- In ancient culture:

- Self-boasting established honor and credibility

- Promoted by the Sophists:
 - Skilled speakers
 - Influential thinkers
- **MESSAGE:**
 - “I am the product of my own greatness”
- **PAUL’S RESPONSE:**
 - Rejects self-glorification
 - Glories in God alone
- **INSIGHT:**
 - This was radical then—and still is today

11. THE DANGER OF SELF-PROMOTION IN THE CHURCH

- Self-boasting shifts focus away from Christ
- Leads to:
 - Competition
 - Division
 - Personal ambition
- **RESULT:**
 - Weakens the church’s witness
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - The gospel centers on God’s glory and service to others

12. THE PROBLEM WITH COMPARISON

- 2 Corinthians 10:12
- Comparing ourselves with others:
 - Is not wise
- **EFFECTS:**
 - Feeds pride
 - Creates insecurity
 - Encourages competition

13. HOW TO AVOID PRIDE AND SELF-BOASTING

- Two key principles:

1. LIFT OTHERS

- Celebrate others’ growth and progress
- Encouraging others reduces self-focus

2. OBSERVE THE CROSS

- By beholding the cross, we reflect it
- A cross-centered life is:
 - Humble
 - Service-oriented
 - Focused on Christ

14. FINAL PRINCIPLE

- A life shaped by the cross:
 - Does not exalt self
 - Exalts Christ
- TRUE BOASTING:
 - Is giving glory to God in all things