



Love does not boast

1 Corinthians 13:4

Breaking the Ice:

What is the worst bragging you have ever heard?

For Reflection:

“Paul is (at least indirectly) referring to jealousy, pride and selfishness in the church community at Corinth. Time and time again the same sins rear their heads: people resent others’ success, blessings or gifts; dissatisfied with their own place and opportunities, they compete for more room, honor or recognition. Jesus, by contrast, quietly pursued the work to which he had been called; he rejoiced in the growth and success of others, encouraging them onward with sensitive wisdom, but never putting anyone down or ignoring anyone.”-- John Stott

Definition: boast (covered in intro video)

Boast(, perperueetai)

Used of one who sounds his own praises, to boast, to brag

Boast noun \ 'bōst \

intransitive verb

1 to puff oneself up in speech: speak
vaingloriously

2 archaic: glory, exult

transitive verb

1 to speak of or assert with excessive
pride

2 to possess and often call attention to
(something that is a source of
pride)

Exploration:

To love means to intentionally not call attention to one's self, accomplishments, possessions, talents or abilities. Love is truly "other focused" and as such the opposite of love could be defined as "selfishness." Bragging and boasting is an expression of selfishness. We want the supposed rightful recognition for ourselves when instead we should be lavish in our recognition of others. - JPW

1. How do you react when someone brags? Do you ever think that people brag without being aware of it? Are we ever likewise unaware?
2. Give your own definition for the opposite of boasting. How would this be put into practice in our lives?
3. How does boasting detract from spiritual influence? Why? In what ways can not boasting lead to spiritual influence in the lives of others?
4. God does OK bragging on Him and what He has done. Why is it ok to boast in the Lord? (see [Jeremiah 9:23-24](#))

Response:

Pray for God to point out moments when we are tempted to boast and use that as an opportunity to give recognition and affirmation to others.

Bottom Line:

God wants you to not brag on yourself but on Him.