

Please Remember To Pray For The Sick!

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Something to Brag About

What reasons do we have to brag? Some possibilities could be our beauty, wealth, strength, intelligence, reputation, or achievements. Maybe we could brag about such things, but should we?

(By the way, bragging does not have to be verbal. We can brag silently by seeking attention for our own glory. Social media is a popular tool for such bragging.)

In truth, no one has any genuine reason to brag about himself. That is because every good thing we have is a blessing from God.

Consider the perspective given in 1Corinthians 4:7: "For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"

Someone may protest by saying, "I've worked hard for what I have." That may be true, yet it is God who gives the talents, abilities, resources, opportunities, and the good results. Even when we supply the effort to work, it is still God who enables us, so He deserves the credit.

There is one reason commended by Scripture for bragging, but it is not about us. That one reason is given in Jeremiah 9:23-24: (23) Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; (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.

So then, we may boast about who God is and what He does. This is a matter of praising Him to others, if we indeed understand and know Him. In our time, we are blessed with the greatest opportunity to know God that has ever been available, which is in Jesus. Through faith in Jesus, we can have a relationship with God as His sanctified and justified children who have all spiritual blessings and an eternal inheritance from our heavenly Father. How blessed we are to know Him, so let God be praised.

It is no surprise then that the New Testament refers to Jeremiah's words, saying, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord" (1Cor. 1:31; see also 2Cor. 10:17). None of us have any reason to brag about ourselves, especially before God, but all who are in Jesus can boast in the Lord.

Let us therefore make the same resolution made by Paul: "But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Gal. 6:14). May all praise, glory, and honor be given to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

Stacey E. Durham

Gods Plan Of Salvation

Hear, Romans 10:17, Believe, John-8:24, Repent, Luke 13:3, Confess, Romans-10:9-10, Baptism, Acts 2:38, Remain Faithful, Revelation 2:10

Seeking Truth



Southend Church of Christ,
250 Hwy 317, Neon, Ky 41840
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Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM
Everyone is Welcome To Attend!

Seeking Sinners, Staying Sanctified

Seeking Sinners, Staying Sanctified

When we believe in Jesus and surrender to Him in obedience, He sanctifies us, which means He makes us holy. For example, the Corinthian Christians had been guilty of all kinds of sins, but Paul wrote, "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (1Cor. 6:11). It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin (1John 1:7).

After we have been sanctified by Jesus, He gives us a mission to tell others about Him so that they also may be sanctified through Him. For this, we must be in and among the world (Matt. 28:18-20; 1Cor. 5:9-10).

In this, there is a great challenge for us. By seeking out sinners, we put ourselves in danger of returning to sin and becoming unholy again. To illustrate, consider the truth demonstrated by Haggai 2:11-13:

(11) "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Ask now the priests for a ruling: (12) If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?'" And the priests answered, "No." (13) Then Haggai said, "If one who is unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will the latter become unclean?" And the priests answered, "It will become unclean."

For us, the application of this is that someone who is holy cannot sanctify someone who is unholy, but someone who is unholy can defile someone who is holy.

So then, how can we interact with sinners without being drawn back into sin? In other words, how do we stay sanctified? The answer is all about Jesus. First, let us remember that it is Jesus who sanctifies and not us. Our conduct and communication with sinners should be all about Jesus rather than ourselves. Second, we should take on the character of Jesus, which will help us to resist temptation. If we don't, then we have "forgotten [our] purification from [our] former sins" (2Pet. 1:9; ref. vv. 4-8). Third, let us imitate the example of Jesus in His dealings with sinners. He did not become yoked with them in sin, and neither should we (2Cor. 6:14-18). Fourth, let us remember that we are not better than sinners, but rather we were just like them until Jesus sanctified us (Titus 3:3-7).

Here is the bottom line: We cannot make sinners holy, but Jesus can. Let us therefore tell them about Jesus so that they can be saved. Moreover, we cannot make sinners holy, but we can be made unholy by them if we are drawn back into sin. Let us therefore not become unequally yoked with them by having fellowship in sin and error. Seek sinners, but stay sanctified.

Stacey E. Durham