



## Boasting, Flattery, And Exaggeration

July 2, 2023

### 1. How can I recognize an overinflated ego?

- A. An overinflated ego begins 75 percent of their conversations with "I."
- B. An overinflated ego hijacks a group conversation and makes it about themselves.
- C. An overinflated ego interrupts people and answers their questions instead of waiting for others to speak.
- D. An overinflated ego loves to criticize.
- E. An overinflated ego won't admit they are wrong or acknowledge when someone else is right.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)*

### 2. What does the Bible say about boasting?

- A. Boasting is focusing on ourselves and our accomplishments.
- B. Boasting destroys the purpose for which God saved us.

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)*

- C. Boasting is putting ourselves in front of other people.

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, Philippians 2:3 (NIV)*

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4 (ESV)*

**D. Boasting is claiming I am good when only God is good.**

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. Romans 7:18 (ESV)

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. John 15:8 (ESV)

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (ESV)

**E. Boasting is promising what I can't guarantee to deliver.**

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. James 4:13–16 (ESV)

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. Proverbs 27:1 (ESV)

**F. Boasting is stealing glory that belongs to God.**

The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' Judges 7:2 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

**G. Boasting is unloving toward others.**

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 1 Corinthians 13:4 (ESV)

## H. We should boast about what God has done for us.

*My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.  
Psalm 34:2 (ESV)*

*Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV)*

*"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 2 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV)*

## 3. What does the Bible say about flattery?

A. Flattery is using compliments to manipulate people to our advantage.

B. Why do we flatter?

- I. We flatter to get attention.
- II. We flatter to solicit compliments.
- III. We flatter to seduce.
- IV. We flatter to gain the respect.

C. What does the Bible say about flattery?

*Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak. May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts, those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?" Psalm 12:2–4 (ESV)*

*For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. Psalm 5:9 (ESV)*

*A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet. Proverbs 29:5 (ESV)*

D. **We are to encourage people with genuine words, not flattering ones.**

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)*

## 4. What does the Bible say about exaggeration?

A. **Exaggeration is stretching the details of a story to make it more sensational.**

B. **Why do we exaggerate?**

I. **We exaggerate to make our lives look better.**

II. **We exaggerate to threaten when we are angry.**

C. **Exaggeration is lying. It erodes trust.**

### Life Group Questions

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1. **Read point 1 in the outline about how to recognize an overinflated ego.** Which of the five signs of an overinflated ego is most prominent in your life?
2. **Read point 2 in the outline about boasting.** What are common places boasting shows up in our culture? Reflect on your life. In what ways does boasting slip into your conversation?
3. Why is God offended when we take credit for the good things in our life instead of giving God the glory? After this study, how will you change the way you speak about your blessings and accomplishments so God gets the glory instead of you?
4. The Bible encourages us to boast about what God has done for us. This week, how can you make what God has done for us, especially through Jesus, what we brag about in our conversations? How does boasting about God's goodness instead of our own help us reach more people with Jesus?
5. **Read point 3 in the outline about flattery.** Pastor Kurt talked about the way flattery is used in advertising. In what other places does flattery show up in our culture?
6. Describe a time you found yourself using flattering words to manipulate others. What motivated your heart to speak that way?
7. While avoiding manipulative flattery, we should encourage others and give genuine compliments. This week, will you commit to speaking genuine words of encouragement to people around us at least once daily while avoiding self-serving motives?
8. **Read point 4 in the outline about exaggeration.** Where do you find yourself exaggerating? Are you more susceptible to exaggerating in anger, in self-pity, or to gain attention? Ask God to help us see and avoid exaggerating words.