



## Chapter Four — *Love Does Not Boast* (1 Corinthians 13:4)

“Love does not boast...” — 1 Corinthians 13:4

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### **Big Idea**

Love shifts the spotlight away from self and toward others—and ultimately toward God.

As Paul continues defining love, he reminds us that true love does not promote itself. The Greek word used here carries the idea of *showing off* or *pushing oneself forward for attention*. Boasting is love turned inward. It seeks recognition, affirmation, and applause.

Love moves in the opposite direction.

While boasting centers conversations around *me*, love looks for ways to elevate *you*. Boasting highlights personal achievements; love highlights the value and contributions of others. At its core, boasting is often driven not just by pride, but by insecurity—an attempt to gain affirmation that feels missing.

God’s kind of love invites us to give away the spotlight.

Instead of using words to build ourselves up, love uses words to build others up. Instead of seeking praise, love freely offers it. And instead of drawing attention to our own accomplishments, love gladly points to God’s goodness.

Scripture reminds us that there is only one rightful object of boasting: the Lord Himself. When we boast in God, we are not stealing attention—we are returning it to where it belongs.

## Practical Takeaways

- Boasting focuses on self; love focuses on others.
- Boasting seeks applause; love seeks connection.
- Boasting competes; love celebrates.
- Boasting exposes insecurity; love flows from security in Christ.
- Healthy humility frees us from the need to impress.

Ways to practice love without boasting:

- Ask more questions and listen more than you speak.
- Publicly express gratitude for others' efforts.
- Replace "I" with "you" in conversations.
- Celebrate others' successes enthusiastically.
- Turn personal stories into testimonies of God's faithfulness.

When our identity is rooted in Christ, we no longer need recognition to feel valuable. Love becomes generous, joyful, and free.

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## Discussion Questions

1. How do you usually react when someone brags? Do you think people boast without realizing it? Is it possible we do the same?
2. What do you think is the opposite of boasting? How could that be practiced in daily life?
3. How does boasting detract from our spiritual influence? In what ways does avoiding boasting increase our influence with others?
4. God approves of our boasting about Him and His work. Why is it appropriate to boast about the Lord? (See Jeremiah 9:23–24)
5. What situations most tempt you to talk about your own accomplishments, and how might God be inviting you to shift the spotlight in those moments?
6. How would your relationships change if you intentionally looked for opportunities this week to praise others and testify to God's goodness?