

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 26 Feb 2023
Sermon Title : Love is Not Boastful Nor Arrogant
Speaker : Rev Peter Koh
Text : 1 Corinthians 13:4

INTRODUCTION

We all have the tendency to boast and be arrogant in our fallen nature. Christians on the other hand are reminded to serve humbly instead of boasting which makes them like a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. We are to love genuinely because love is the greatest. (1 Cor 13:13). It is worthy to note that 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 is sandwiched between two chapters that highlight spiritual gifts and how to use them. Chapter 12 speaks of spiritual gifts and the unity of the church, while chapter 14 highlights prophecy, speaking in tongues and how to use those gifts. The sandwiched chapter 13 connects these two chapters by showing the way of love among believers. Therefore, even though believers can exercise our spiritual gifts and prophesize well, all these accomplishments amount to nothing if we had not expressed love in words and actions. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3) It is not the superiority of our power but the superiority of God's love. God loves us immensely so that we can love others genuinely.

Meanings of 'Boastful' and 'Arrogant'

Paul describes love in verse 4 with the expression of love is in a passive form (patient) and active form (kind), then follows with verbs of expressing what love is and what love is (not envious, not boastful, not arrogant, etc). This is the context of love as described by Paul.

Boastful - *Perpereuomai* {Gk.}

- Vain-glorious, braggart/wind-bag
- Extolling oneself excessively

Arrogant - *Physioó* {Gk.}

- To inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up
- To puff up
- To bear oneself loftily
- Haughty

Difference between Boastful and Arrogant:

Boastful – tell everyone how great you are (expressed through words).

Arrogant – believe you are great (expressed through behaviour).

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Real love is not boastful nor arrogant. Genuine love casts out any fear of hurt or harm and it gives comfort and security to others.

Why Love is not Boastful and Arrogant

Genuine love avoids self-boasting and haughty behaviours. Such self-centred behaviours will not be perceived favourably by others and eventually they will avoid the arrogant person. A boastful or arrogant person:

- Thumbs others down or belittle others
- Irritates others
- Drives others away

How to Love

Real love is externally focused on others where one is sensitive to the other person or group's situations, challenges and needs. Real love:

- Focus on others, not self – *care for, minister to and bless others*
- Magnify others – *encourage, raise their confidence, courage and worth.*

In Genesis, God gave authority to Adam to have dominion over His creation. Adam was able to name the living creatures around him. Likewise, we today should have that confidence and worth in Christ Jesus to faithfully live out our lives and perform our various roles with love for each other. We have to help each other determine our purpose in life as God designs.

- Offer help with no repayment or recognition – *care without expectations of returns.*
- Build others up – *appreciate their worth, lift them up*

As we seek to bless others by our love from Christ, we too can be blessed by others. We ought not to just show gratitude for whatever that has been given to us but also to encourage and build the giver. Genuine love moves both ways to edify and encourage one another for God's glory and purpose.

Perfect love will cast out fears. This will equip and encourage the others to confidently face the challenges and journey ahead. Let us not just show gratitude but seek to show perfect love to raise our family's and friends' worth and confidence.

The Perfect Love of Christ

- Perfect love is modelled for us in Jesus Christ. He humbled Himself by coming down as man to live among us and to demonstrate true genuine love by His words and deeds. Jesus leaves a ministry and legacy of ministering to people, lifting them up and raising their self-worth. Peter's rise from a hot-headed fisherman to

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Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

establishing the first church for Christ is a fine example of how Jesus' love can transform people.

- That perfect love is demonstrated on the cross when He sacrifice Himself for our sins and sake so that we can be reconciled with Father God. Jesus in His ministry did not boast nor show arrogance but loves all who seek him, even those shunned by men and religious leaders.
- Jesus, when He washed the feet of His disciples, demonstrated humility and genuine love. He never expected the opposite but rather showed by example what true love is. He also reminded His disciples that those who wanted to be first in the Kingdom of God must be prepared to serve and be last on earth, a reminder to not be boastful and arrogant.

We are now starting to get a better idea of what genuine love is. Love is patient, kind, does not envy, is not boastful nor arrogant. There is more yet to genuine love, but for now are we able to do all that have been described of love? Are we able to humble ourselves to serve? Are we able to lower ourselves to serve or wash someone's feet and bless others just as Jesus did?

CONCLUSION

We are designed by God to love and bless people. Although we are still a work in progress, we should be willing to let the Spirit of God stir our hearts towards loving others genuinely. Mathew 16:24 speaks of denying ourselves and taking up the cross and follow Jesus. To do so means to remove our self-centredness, dethrone the "I" in the middle of "SIN", so that we can follow Jesus at the centre of our lives. Ephesians 4:2 tells us to be completely humble, gentle, be patient and bearing with one another in love. That is the manner in which we ought to live our lives, so that we can be a blessing to one another, permeating to even those who have yet to know our Lord.

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Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

A. Review Sermon Application

Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Appoint someone to read 1 Corinthians 13:4 aloud slowly.

- a. In which area(s) of your life do you find yourself telling everyone how great you are or how much you have done?

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Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

- 3a. There are many ways to show love as described above. Consider “magnify others”, and “build others up”.
- (i) How do “magnify others” and “build others up” counter being boastful and arrogant?
 - (ii) What are some areas you can show love by these two means at home, work/school, in your small group, church and the community to encourage others for God’s purpose?
- 3b. Consider “Focusing on others” and “Offering help without repayment”. What are some ways your group can demonstrate this humility of Christ to serve and bless:
- (i) others in our church?
 - (ii) pre-believers?
- 4a. List actions that express someone believes he/she is great. Consider your own actions and go to the Lord in repentance if you have exhibited any of the actions listed above.
- 4b. In Ephesians 4:1-3, apostle Paul tells us that, to live a life worthy of the calling we have received, we are to be completely humble and gentle; bearing with one another in love.
- (i) What is one challenge you face in doing the above?
 - (ii) What is one thing you can do to overcome this challenge?
 - (iii) How can your group members help or encourage you to overcome this challenge?

**** Digging deeper:**

In some of apostle Paul’s letters, he writes of boasting in his ministry. Can you identify some of these letters and determine what he is boasting about? Do you boast as Paul did? What will it take for your group to accomplish this?

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Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

5. Share your personal testimony on how you have been shown an act of love in humility that reflects that genuine better Christian love. How did this experience strengthen your faith and love for others? Give glory to God in Christ Jesus.

OR

Give thanks to God for Christ's humility that being in the very nature God, He did not consider equality with God something to be used to His advantage; rather He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness and being found in the appearance of a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death on the cross so we can be reconciled with God.

6. With a prayer partner, bring all that have been shared in 3 and 4 to God, asking the Holy Spirit to prompt you when you have been boastful or arrogant.

Pray for your members, group and our church to have the humility of Christ to love people genuinely by focusing on others, magnifying others, building others us and offering help without repayment or recognition.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. House of the Lord – Phil Wickham [\(119\) Phil Wickham - House Of The Lord \(Official Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)
2. I Will Trust – Malaysia Collective [\(119\) I Will Trust \(with Lyrics\) | WHC Worship - YouTube](#)
3. I Speak Jesus – Charity Gayle [\(119\) I Speak Jesus - Charity Gayle \(feat. Steven Musso\) \(Live\) - Lyric Video - YouTube](#)

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