

VICE
HABITS OF SIN

VAINGLORY
 WEEK 3 JANUARY 28, 2018

C·S· LEWIS

The
WEIGHT
of
Glory

"I am not forgetting how quickly the **lawful pleasure of praise** from those whom it is my duty to please turns into the **deadly poison of self-admiration**. But I thought I could detect a moment during which the satisfaction of having pleased those whom I rightly loved and rightly feared was pure. And that is enough to raise our thoughts to what may happen when the redeemed learn at last that **we have pleased Him for whom we were created to please**. There will be no room for vanity then. **We will most innocently rejoice in the thing God has made us to be.**"

OPENING REMARKS

- Questions (and answers) are welcomed. Please hold comments to the end (time permitting).
- Addressing sin is complicated, painful, personal & critical. **Let us be gracious with one another.**
- Remember, **I am not addressing those who are dead in their sins...**

CLASS GOALS

- **Recognize the habits of sin** (Eph 5:13).
- **Conviction, NOT shame** (1 Cor 7:8-10).
- **Enabled to battle vice** (Eph 6:10-18).
- **Bear one another's burdens** (Gal 5:13-6:2).
- **Gospel of Jesus unhindered** (Acts 28:31).

WHAT IS GLORY?

Glory: the manifest goodness of something (Aquinas)

Do humans rightly have glory?

"...let your **light shine** before others so that they may see your **good works** and give **glory** to your Father in heaven." (Matt 5:16)

"For what is our hope or joy or **crown of boasting** before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For **you are our glory** and joy." (1Thes 2:19-20)

WHAT IS GLORY?

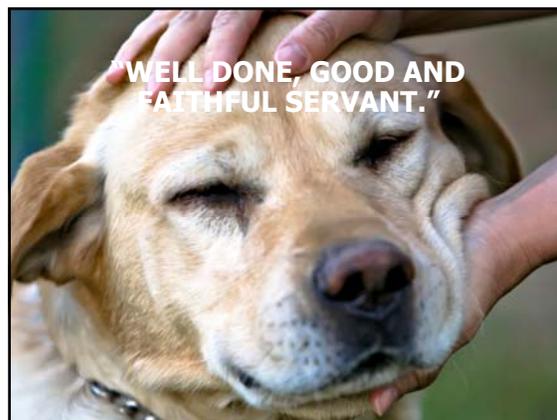
"Every perfect thing communicates itself to other things as much as it can, and this belongs to everything because everything imitates the first perfect thing, namely, God, who **communicates his goodness** to everything...so it seems to belong to a natural appetite that **one wishes one's goodness to become known**. Therefore, if one relates this desire to a **proper end, it will belong to virtue**, and if one does not, it will belong to [vainglory]."

Thomas Aquinas, *On Evil* (via DeYoung, *Vainglory*)

WHAT IS GLORY?

- Christians have glory derived from God.
- As God's goodness calls attention to Him, your good deeds (i.e. your derivative glory) should draw attention to God.
- When humans receive proper attention and affirmation for proper good deeds, this contributes to human flourishing (virtue).
- Your glory goes wrong when you fail to see it as a "foretaste of the approval of God" and see it as an "end grounded in the fickle foundation of human approval."

DeYoung, *Vainglory*



"WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT."

WHAT IS VANITY?

Vanity: something lacking in substance or value

WHAT IS VAINGLORY?

Vainglory: glory desired for **vain things** and/or to **vain ends**

Vain things:

- False:** phony as "good"
Such as?
- Nefarious:** evil as "good"
Such as?
- Fluff:** superficial or meaningless as "good"
Such as?

WHAT IS VAINGLORY?

Vainglory: glory desired for **vain things** and/or to **vain ends**

Vain ends:

- Self**—to make your name great (pride)

A TALE OF TWO CITIES...

"...**two cities** have been formed by **two loves**: the **earthly city by the love of self**, even to the contempt of God; the **heavenly by the love of God**, even to the contempt of self. The former, in a word **glories in itself**; the **latter in the Lord**. For the one **seeks glory from [humans]**; but the **greatest glory of the other is God**, the witness of conscience. The one **lifts up its head in its own glory**; the other **says to its God: 'You are my glory, and the lifter of my head.'**"

St. Augustine, *The City of God* (via DeYoung *Vainglory*)

YOUR RIGHT GLORY

- Is from God's goodness in creating & calling
- Is following Jesus
- Is faithfulness, loyalty to God in Christ
- Is being an image-bearer
- Is flourishing in virtue
- Is the Spirit-filled glorification of God

Vainglory leads astray...

VAINGLORY REVEALED IN US

How might vainglory be leading the Christ followers at ECC astray?

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ambition | Inappropriate humor |
| Desire to impress | Slighted easily |
| Crave approval | Bragging |
| Hide your faults | Refuse help |
| Show off | Perfectionism |
| Arrogance | Self righteousness |
| Condescending | Fear of failure |

VAINGLORY'S DAUGHTER SINS

- Hypocrisy:** pretending to have goodness to be thought better of
- Boasting:** exaggerating and/or proclaiming your goodness
- 'Presumption of novelty':** seeking "latest and greatest" to attract attention
- Obstinacy:** insisting on your own judgment
- Discordancy:** refusing to agree with those wiser than you
- Contentiousness:** verbal quarreling to assert your "goodness"
- Disobedience:** refusing to obey those rightly over you

RK DeYoung, *Vainglory*

VAINGLORY LEADS ASTRAY

How might vainglory be compromising the mission of God at ECC?

BATTLING VAINGLORY

- **OPERATIONAL PLANNING**
 - **Gift: set free from sin** (Rom 6:22-23)
 - **Work out our salvation** because **God works in us** (Phil 2:12-13)
 - **Wrestle against spiritual forces of evil** (Eph 6:10-12)
- **EQUIPMENT & TACTICS**
 - **Scripture / Prayer / Liturgy** ("Worship service")
 - **Flee, talk back, remember, confess, Lord's Supper, work, community, Sabbath rest**
- **OBJECTIVES** (Phil 3:12-14)
 - **Repentance, Perseverance, New Creation**

BATTLING VAINGLORY

FLEEING: What? How?

- Discern where to flee the people, places, situations or things that prompt you to vainglory.
- "Our culture forms us to crave recognition. Our social world—online and in person—is a whirl of attention-seeking, an expected way of life. Vainglory is a social vice; its pollution is the very air we breath. **The more opportunities for publicity we have, the more problems with vainglory we potentially face.**"

RK DeYoung, *Vainglory*

'Facebragging' woman builds friends' character



"It was so typical that I forgot to be annoyed," says a friend who like others in their church says Molly's "Facebragging" amounts to a constant wave of self-congratulatory posts about her life. "If you want to learn patience and slowness to anger, do yourself a favor and friend Molly Parker." ... "I consider Molly a friend and a God-given thorn in my side," says one woman. "If friends are supposed to spur you to godliness, then she's the best friend I've ever had."

LARK NEWS <http://www.larknews.com/archives/4291>

Note Wall. This is a fake Christian news site. Molly Parker is a fictitious person.

BATTLING VAINGLORY

TALKING BACK: What to say to yourself?

- **"Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)**
- **"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends." (2Cor 10:17-18)**

BATTLING VAINGLORY

REMEMBER: What?

Who you are:

You have been crucified with Christ; you no longer live, but Christ lives in you; you have been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ; you live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit (Galatians 2:20,3:27,5:25)

BATTLING VAINGLORY

REMEMBER: What?

Your chains, your freedom; your victories, God's faithfulness.

BATTLING VAINGLORY

REMEMBER: What?

Your death.

The advice of **Abba Macarius** the Egyptian:

"...if you wish to be saved [you] must do the same and become a dead man. Like the dead, take no account of either the scorn of men or their praises."

BATTLING VAINGLORY

CONFESS* Pray with me.

Father in Heaven, forgive us for being [vainglorious] people. So often we think that we are righteous by our own actions, rather than receiving righteousness through the blood of Christ. We do not like to admit that we are weak, and instead we look at the failings of others. We often think that we are better than others, and we expect them to be perfect for us.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Forgive us for having an arrogant attitude toward our neighbors in the body of Christ, toward our neighbors who don't yet know you, and toward those we don't know but stereotype. We fail to see our neighbors as people made in your image.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

* Kroon L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins," *Reformed Worship*, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING VAINGLORY

CONFESS* **Pray with me.**

Sometimes, Lord, in our quest for perfection we fail to use the gifts you have given to us. We are afraid that others will see us as less than perfect, forgetting that only you are perfect.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Forgive us, Lord, for [our vainglory]. Help us to see ourselves and our neighbor through your eyes—the eyes that looked at the world from the perspective of the cross.

All: **Forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

* Kraon L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." Reformed Worship, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING VAINGLORY

ASSURANCE OF PARDON* **Pray with me.**

Hear the Word of the Lord from Philippians 2:

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

All: **Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

* Kraon L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." Reformed Worship, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING VAINGLORY

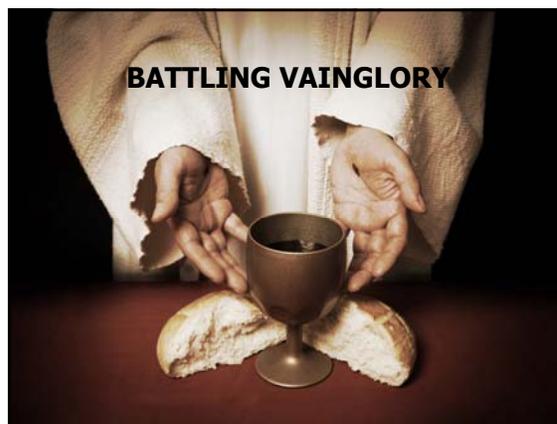
ASSURANCE OF PARDON* **Pray with me.**

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

* Kraon L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." Reformed Worship, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING VAINGLORY



BATTLING VAINGLORY

WORK: **What can you do to battle vainglory?**

- **Do good works anonymously.**
- **Silence.** Fast from talking (and posting) about yourself.
- **Solitude.** Remove your audience.
- **Be honest.** Don't exaggerate.
- **Be vulnerable.** Share your struggles and failures.
- **Give genuine compliments.** Don't flatter or gush.
- **Receive compliments well.**
- **Seek spiritual direction.**

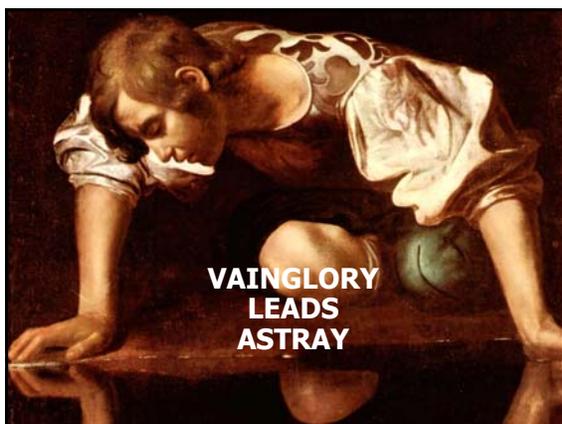
BATTLING VAINGLORY

COMMUNITY: **What can we do to battle vainglory?**

- **"Enlarge your sense of dependence on others."**
- **Participate in genuine friendships.**
- **Affirm and encourage goodness in one another.**
"Circle of virtue" vs. "Onion layers of vice"
- **Be bold in hospitality.**

BATTLING VAINGLORY

SABBATH REST: Are you well enough rested to battle vainglory in your life? Are you making this a priority?



MAGNANIMITY RE-DIRECTS

"Magnanimous people concern themselves with achieving great and hard-won acts of virtue as something to which God has called them. Their achievements are genuinely worthy of honor. They are things that turn our thoughts to the glory of God because they obviously aren't something anyone could have done without grace. **Magnanimous people radiate God's beauty and goodness in the world, drawing others to that glory, a glory that transcends the person and his or her act.**"

RK DeYoung, *Glittering Vices*, p 65.

And Mary said, "Behold I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word." ...
 "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."
 Luke 1:38,46-49

GRACE TO HELP IN A TIME OF NEED
 HEBREWS 4:14-16

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Rich Lanning | Colleen Grogan |
| Michael Lyons | Erin Lyons |
| Rick Schatz | Sharon Schatz |
| Mark Verhagen | Becky Verhagen |
| Steve Langdon | Stephanie Langdon |
| | Sue Crosset |

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

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