**Let Another Man Praise You**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Read Proverbs 27:2. Any of us have a problem with that?
2. Boasting or bragging is more than just annoying to others; it’s wrong.
   1. Romans 1:28-30.
   2. 2 Timothy 3:1-2.
3. Old saying: “If you want to know how great someone is (or members of their family), just ask him or her, and he or she will tell you.”
   1. We added “members of their family,” because typically when we brag about them, it’s not just about promoting them, it’s also about promoting ourselves.
4. Read Matthew 6:2.
   1. We don’t have to have a trumpet in hand to be guilty of the same thing.
   2. On the phrase, “that they may have glory from men,” see Proverbs 25:27.
5. To help us all have a better grasp on this subject, let’s consider at least some of the reasons why praising ourselves is such a bad thing.

**BODY**:

1. It fails to give credit where credit is due.
   1. 1 Corinthians 4:7 (see also Deuteronomy 8:17-18).
      1. Everything we have we received from the Lord, so why would we boast about what we have, or what we did?
   2. Here’s how we should speak: 1 Corinthians 15:9-10
      1. And when Paul talks about the grace of God, he’s including what God has done for him through his fellow-Christians.
      2. How many times do we see Paul thank God for different Christians who helped him a variety of ways?
   3. 2 Corinthians 10:12, 17-18; Galatians 6:14 (“God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”). Examples: Acts 14:27; 21:19.
      1. Explain the “boasting” Paul does in 2 Corinthians.
2. It hurts our influence with others.
   1. First, with those who are not Christians. They may not be exhibiting themselves, but they know enough to know Christians should be humble.
      1. In general, most people just don’t like people who brag (even when it’s a “humble brag.”
   2. But, also with our fellow-Christians. When we constantly direct the conversation back to us, to something we’ve done or some family member has done, they get to thinking we don’t really care about them too much.
      1. Philippians 2:3-4: This is what they should really see in us.
      2. It’s hard to invest in others when we think too much of ourselves.
3. Which leads us to the next point. The more we shine the spotlight on ourselves, the more we put others in the shade.
   1. In the manner we just spoke of, where they think we’re not truly interested in them. But there’s more to it than that…
   2. We may forget sometimes the struggles our brethren may be going through, some known, others unknown (financial struggles, health struggles, spiritual struggles, perhaps struggles with their children, etc.). Hearing about our successes may **not** be the most encouraging to them at the time.
      1. 1 Corinthians 10:24, 33.
4. When we care too much about what others think of us, we may not stand up for what’s right.
   1. John 5:44.
   2. Isn’t that what happened with the blind man’s parents in John 9, and the rulers in John 12?
      1. They would not stand up for Jesus because they were too worried about what others would think—didn’t want to be cast out of the synagogue.
   3. Caring too much for the praise of men is a dangerous road to travel; in fact, it may be the road we travel all the way to hell.
5. The last point, and this is where we address “the elephant in the room.” Don’t we need some sort of affirmation from others, the occasional “well done” or “good job” to keep us encouraged?
   1. Here’s the thing…we don’t have to go looking for it, don’t have to beg for it, because we get that “well done” every single time we do what is right, even when it’s done outside the notice of anyone else.
   2. Remember the Matthew 6 passages we read earlier, where Jesus warned His disciples about doing things to be seen of men? What He teaches in the rest of that passage is no one has to know because as He says three times, “your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly” (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18).
   3. Hebrews 6:9-10.
   4. Will others notice, too? Of course, they will. “Let another man praise you”—that’s what our first passage said, and it will happen.
      1. In fact, this passage tells us what happens when we dedicate ourselves to pleasing the Lord. Luke 2:52.
      2. Same thing said of Samuel in 1 Samuel 2:26.
      3. Others will take notice and commend us, and when they don’t as often as we would like, that’s okay, because God sees and approves every good thing we do.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. So here at the end, let’s return to where we started: “Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger and not your own lips” (Proverbs 27:2).
2. And this shouldn’t be a problem if we heed the admonition of 1 Peter 5:5: “Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility.”