

# PRAYING THE PSALMS

Bridging Intimacy With God

Online (Zoom)

Date: Beginning 3rd  
September 2025  
(Wednesdays)  
Time: 8.30pm

Physical

Date: Beginning 4th September  
2025 (Thursdays)  
Time:  
7 pm Dinner @ Garden Cafe,  
8 pm Discussion @ Youth Hall

Register with the church office





# GALATIANS

The Gospel & True Freedom

Boasting in Christ

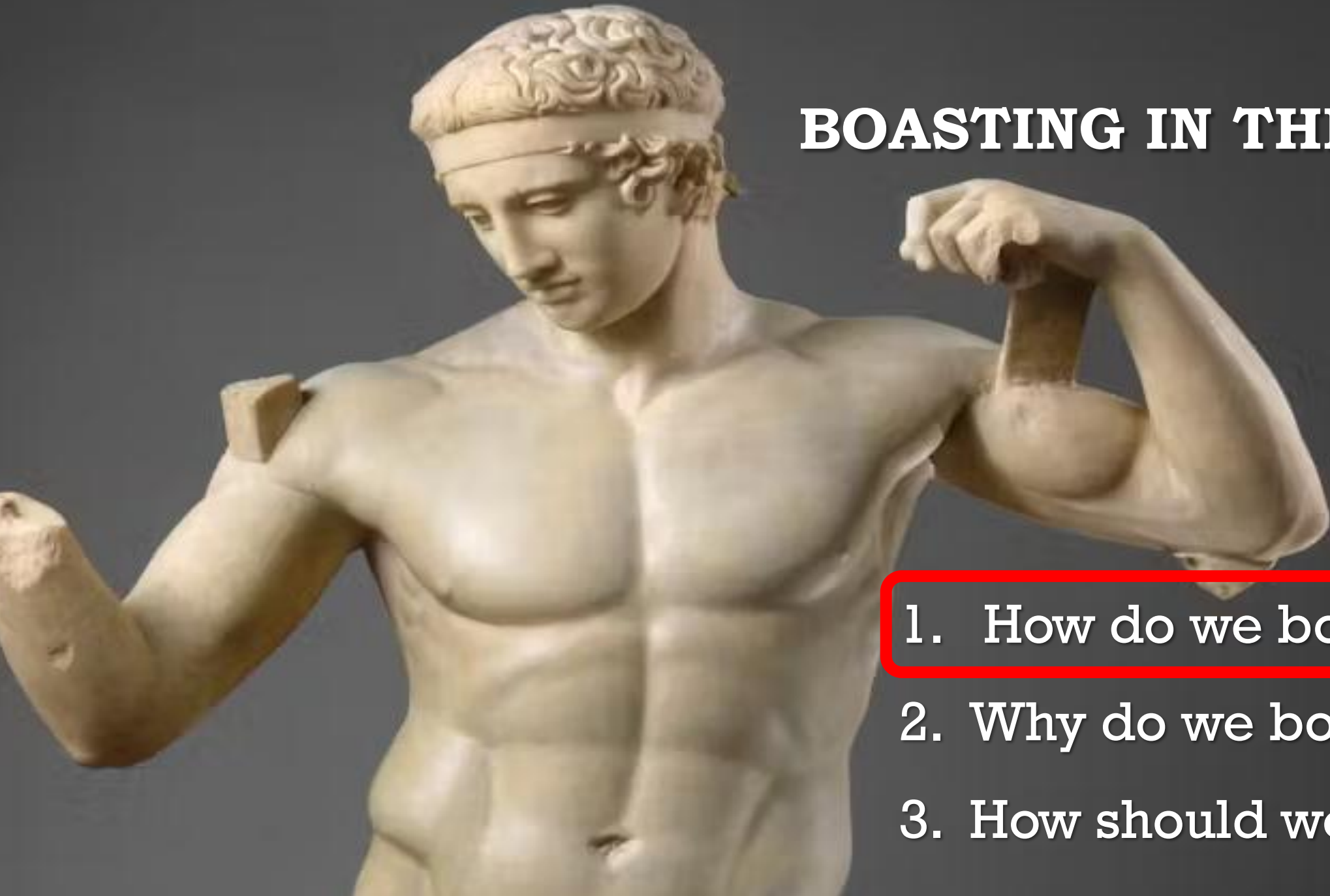
Galatians 6: 11-18





# THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

1. The True Gospel (Gal 1-2)
2. The Inclusive Gospel (Gal 3-4)
3. The Liberating Gospel (Gal 5-6)



# BOASTING IN THE LORD

1. How do we boast
2. Why do we boast
3. How should we boast



Galatians 6:11-16 (ESV) See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but

they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.



# THE CONTRAST



Boasting totally repugnant to Paul

Unimpressive, unpaid, suffering

- Impressive
- Bold
- Visionary
- Triumphalistic
- Signs
- Rhetoric.





A close-up photograph of Donald Trump. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a blue tie. He has a confident, slightly smug expression on his face, with his mouth slightly open showing his teeth. His right hand is raised, with his index finger pointing straight up. The background is a solid blue color. The text "I ALONE" is superimposed at the top in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters with a black outline. The text "CAN FIX IT!" is superimposed at the bottom in the same font style.

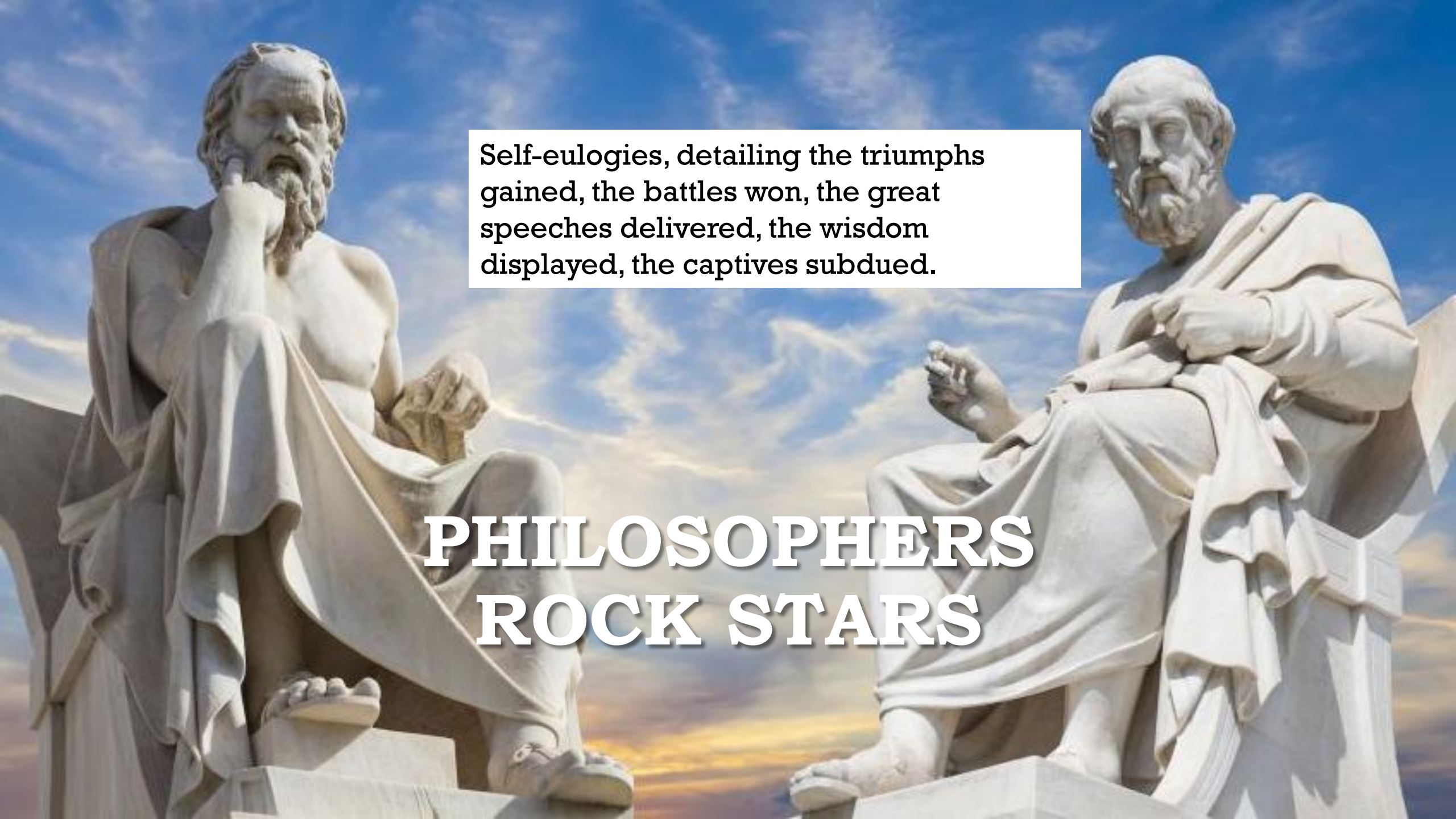
**I ALONE**

**CAN FIX IT!**







The image features two large marble statues of ancient philosophers, Plato and Aristotle, seated on a stone ledge. Plato, on the left, is shown in a three-quarter view, pointing his right index finger towards the sky. He has a full beard and is wearing a simple robe. Aristotle, on the right, is seated and facing forward, with his right hand held palm-down in a gesture of explanation or denial. He also has a full beard and is wearing a similar robe. The background is a vibrant, cloudy sky with a mix of blue and orange hues, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall composition is grand and classical.

Self-eulogies, detailing the triumphs gained, the battles won, the great speeches delivered, the wisdom displayed, the captives subdued.

# PHILOSOPHERS ROCK STARS

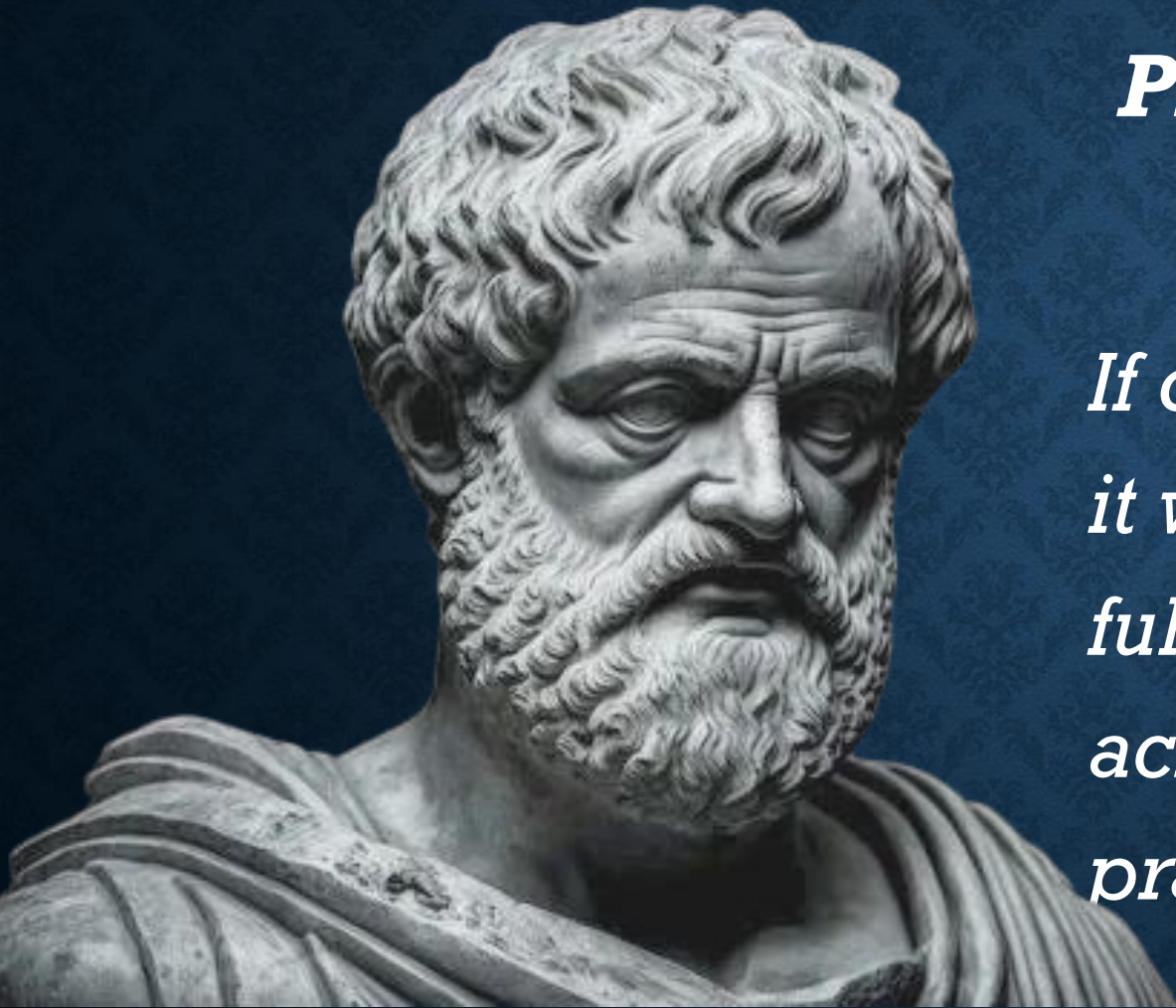




## POLEMON

*“used to talk to cities as a superior, to kings as not inferior, and to gods as an equal” (Vit. Soph. 1.25.4).*





## ***PHILOTIMIA, "THE LOVE OF HONOUR."***



*If one had achieved great things,  
it was only right and proper that  
full recognition be given:  
achievement deserves public  
praise.*

147 pithy maxims of the Delphic Canon from the 6th century BC sum and substance of ethical life ...no mention of humility



# Res Gestae



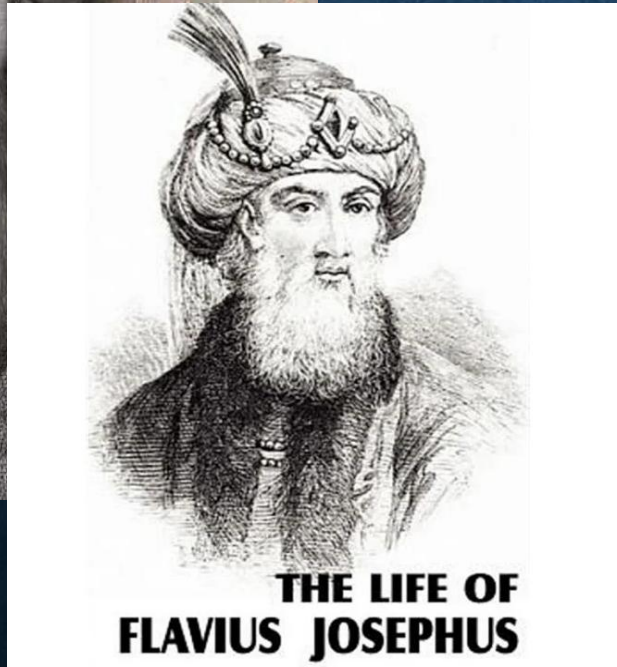
TAE · DIVI · AV

PERFECI · CIVIS · POTESTATIS · CONLEGAM · ET · I  
TRIVMVIRVM · REI · PVBLICAE · CONSTITVENDAE · P  
AD · EVM · DIEM · QVO · SCRIPSERAM · HAEC · PER · ANN  
SACRIS · FACIVNDIS · SEPTENVIRVM · EPVLONVM  
NVMERVM · AVXI · CONSVL · QVINTVM · IVSSV  
CENSVM · POPVLI · CONLEGA · M · AGRIPPA · EGI · LVSTRVM  
ROMANORVM · CENSA · SVNT · CAPITA · QVADRAGIENS · OEN  
LVSTRVM · SOLVS · FECI · C · CENSORINO · ET · C · ASINIO · CO  
CENTVM · MILLIA · ET · DVCENTA · TRIGINTA · TRIA · MILLIA  
FILIO · MEO · FECI · SEX · POMPEIO · ET · SEX · APPVLEIO  
QVADRAGIENS · CENTVM · MILLIA · ET · NONGEN  
EXEMPLA · MAIORVM · EXOLESCENTIA · IAM · EX  
IMITANDA · POSTERIS · TRADIDI · VOTA · PRO · V  
QVOQVE · ANNO · SENATVS · DECREVIT · EX · IIS  
QVATTVOR · AMPLISSIMA · COLLEGIA · ALIQVOTIE  
VNANIMITER · CONTINENTER · APVD · OMNIA ·  
MEVM · SENATVS · CONSVLTO · INCLVSVM · ES  
ET · QVOAD · VIVEREM · TRIBVNICIA · POTESTAS · M



# FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS

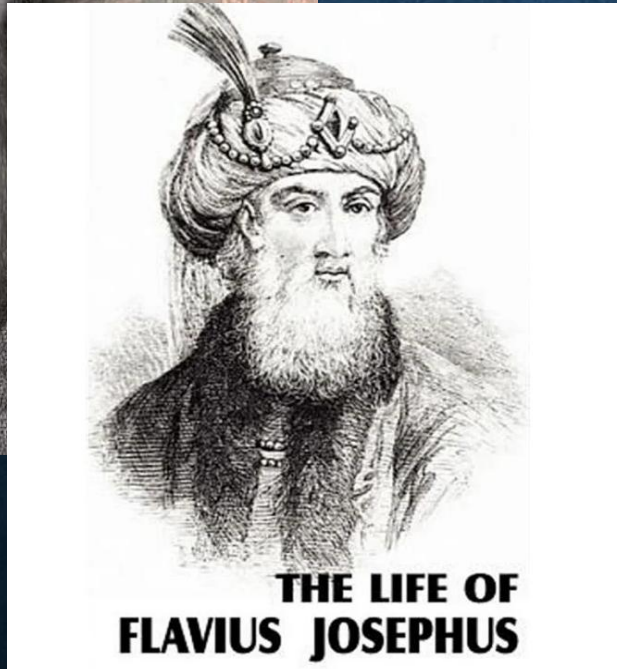
# AUTOBIOGRAPHY



*"My family is highly respected, from priestly ancestors. Different races base their claim to nobility on various grounds; with us a connection with the priesthood is the hallmark of an illustrious line. Not only, however, were my ancestors priests, but they belong to the highest class of priests."*



# FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS



*I very highly educated renowned for my excellent memory and understanding. While still a mere boy, about fourteen years old, I won universal applause for my love of literature; so much so that that the chief priests and the leading men of the city constantly came to consult me on the Law*





Mariel Descalsota

I've had Kobe beef in Japan, which melted in my mouth, and unfortunately, the meat used in the Wellington pales in comparison.





# **HUMBLE BRAGGING**

## **HARRIS WITTELS**

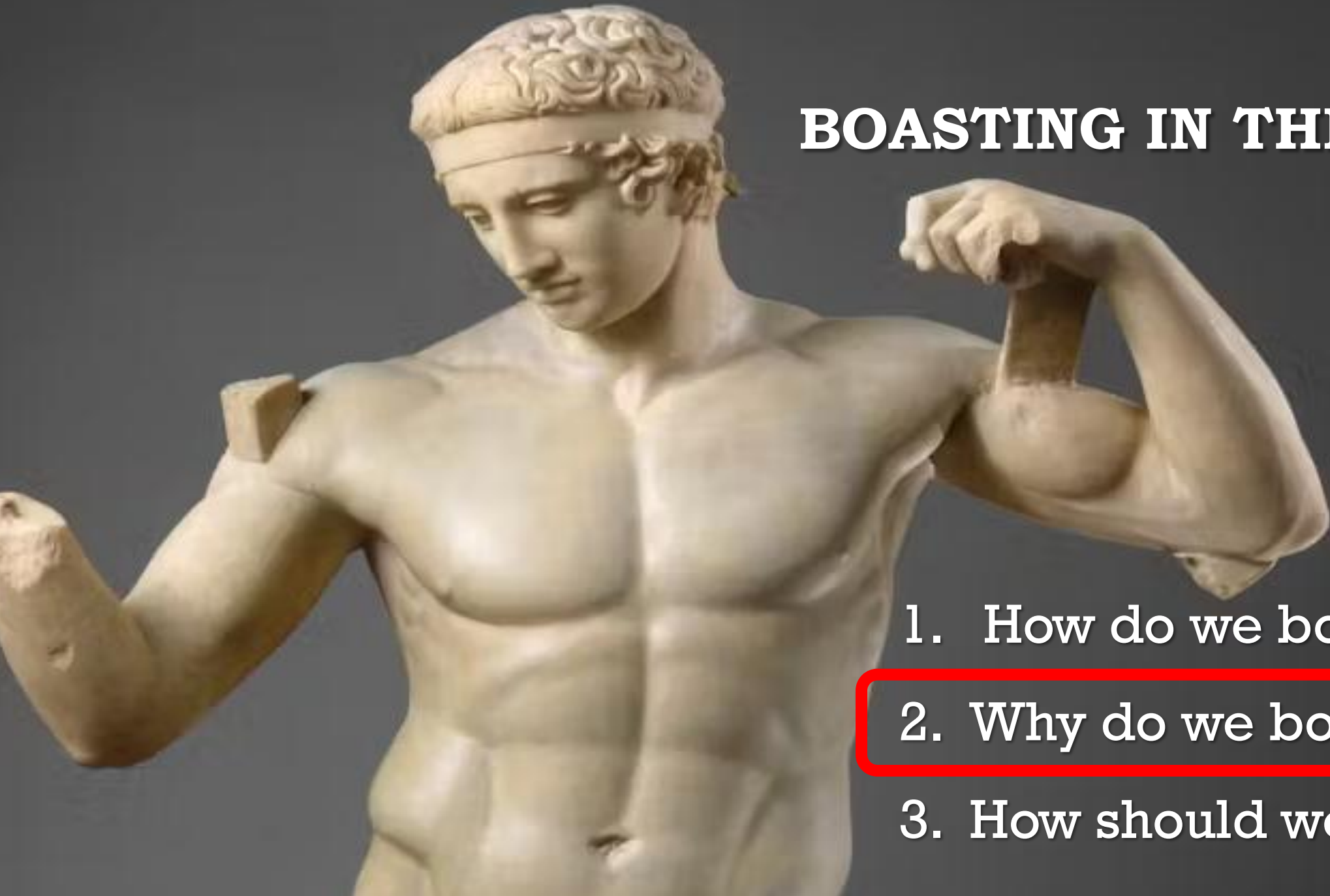
A humblebrag is a type of boast disguised in modesty.





Proverbs 27:2 *“Let another praise you,  
and not your own mouth.”*





# BOASTING IN THE LORD

1. How do we boast

2. Why do we boast

3. How should we boast



## THE FALSE TEACHERS

Galatians 6:11-16 (ESV) 11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.



Acts 13 Antioch in  
Psidia...Gentiles  
respond, Jews persecute

Acts 14 Iconium: Jews  
tried to stone Paul but  
he escaped

Acts 14 Lystra: Jews  
stoned Paul and left for  
dead

**Jewish Persecution**





# THE FALSE TEACHERS

Galatians 6:11-16 (ESV) 11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 It is those who want to impress you by their fleshly efforts to evade the cross who would force you to accept their circumcision—though even naturally they want to be circumcised so they may boast in your flesh. 13

They are only doing it to keep up external appearances so that they can look good to other Jews

For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.



# WHAT FALSE TEACHERS SOW



Galatians 4:17 ESV They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that

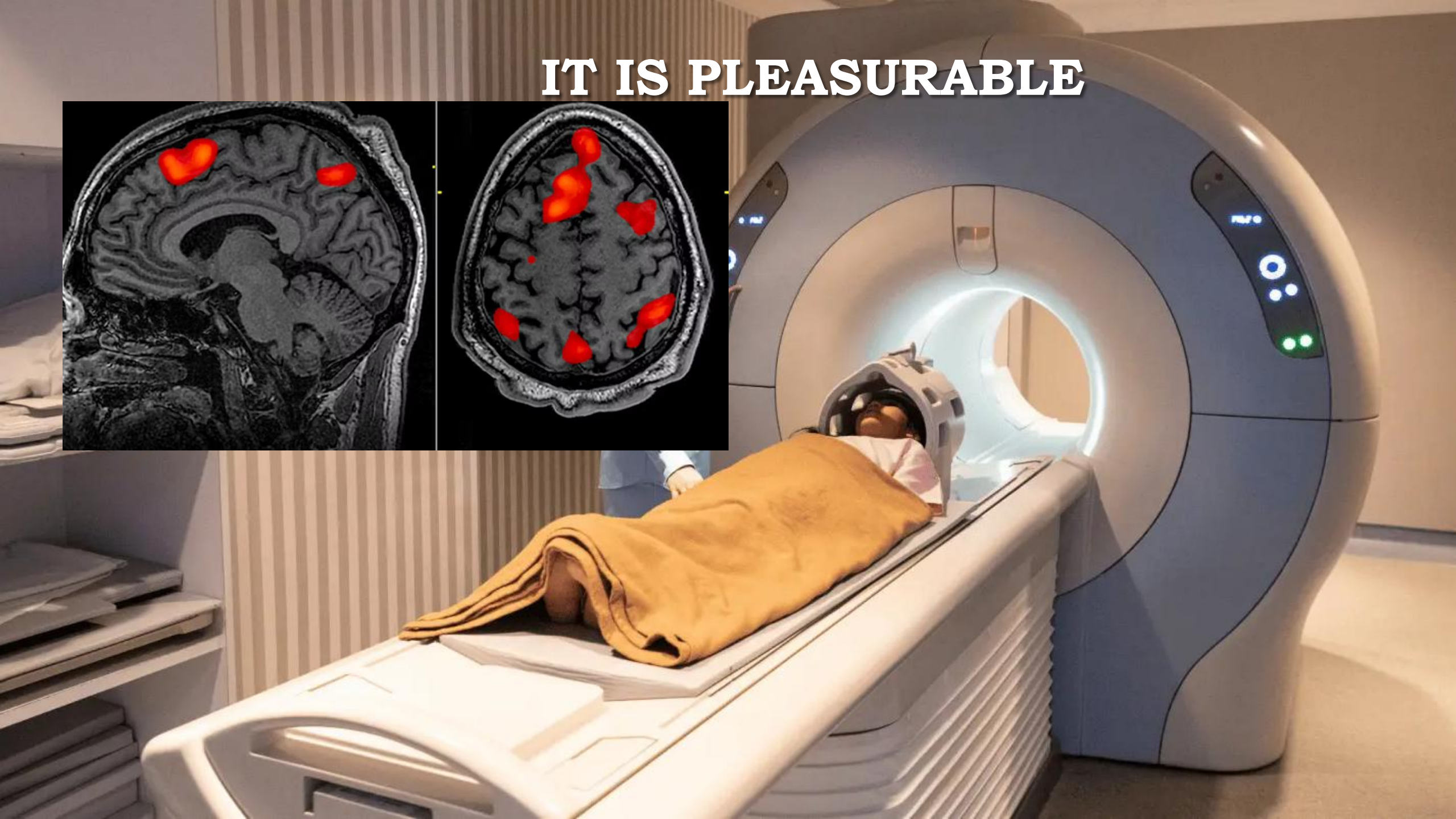
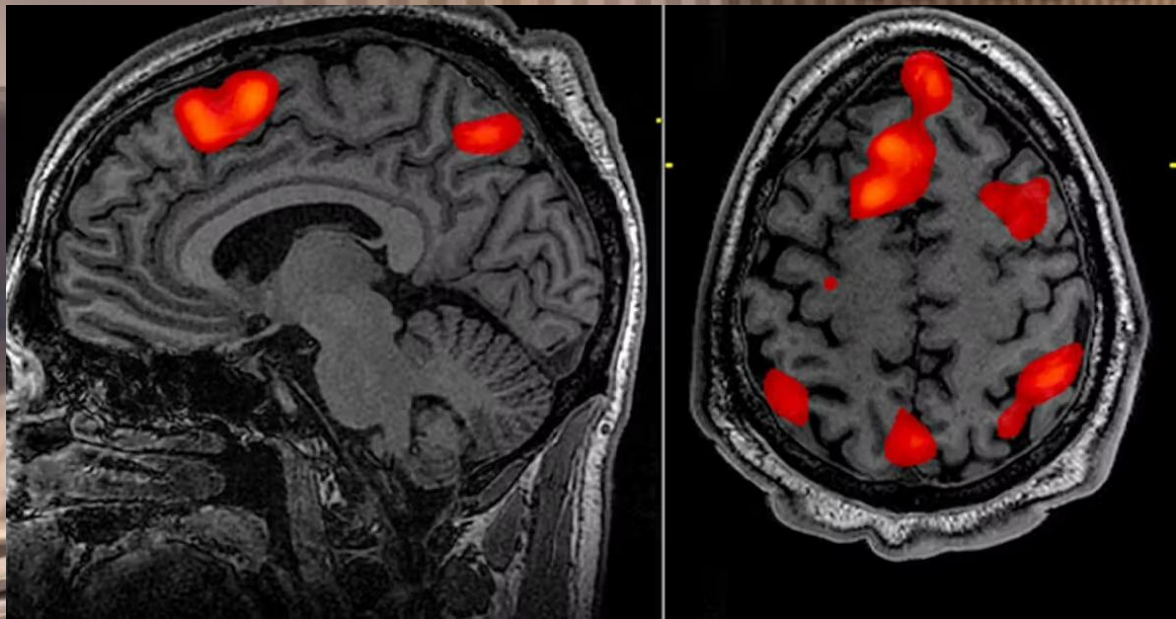
**you may make much of them**







**IT IS PLEASURABLE**







# WHY WE BOAST

Self Esteem

Self Identity





FEBRUARY 13, 2012

Why Demi  
Went into  
Treatment

# LIFE IN DANGER

THE REAL STORY



THE SAG AWARDS  
★ 10 BEST  
DRESSED ★



Jen & Justin  
INSIDE THEIR  
NEW HOME!



WENDIE SIMON



Harper's

373  
NEW  
IDEAS

THE  
BAG  
AND  
SHOES  
TO BUY

A-LIST  
BEAUTY  
SECRETS

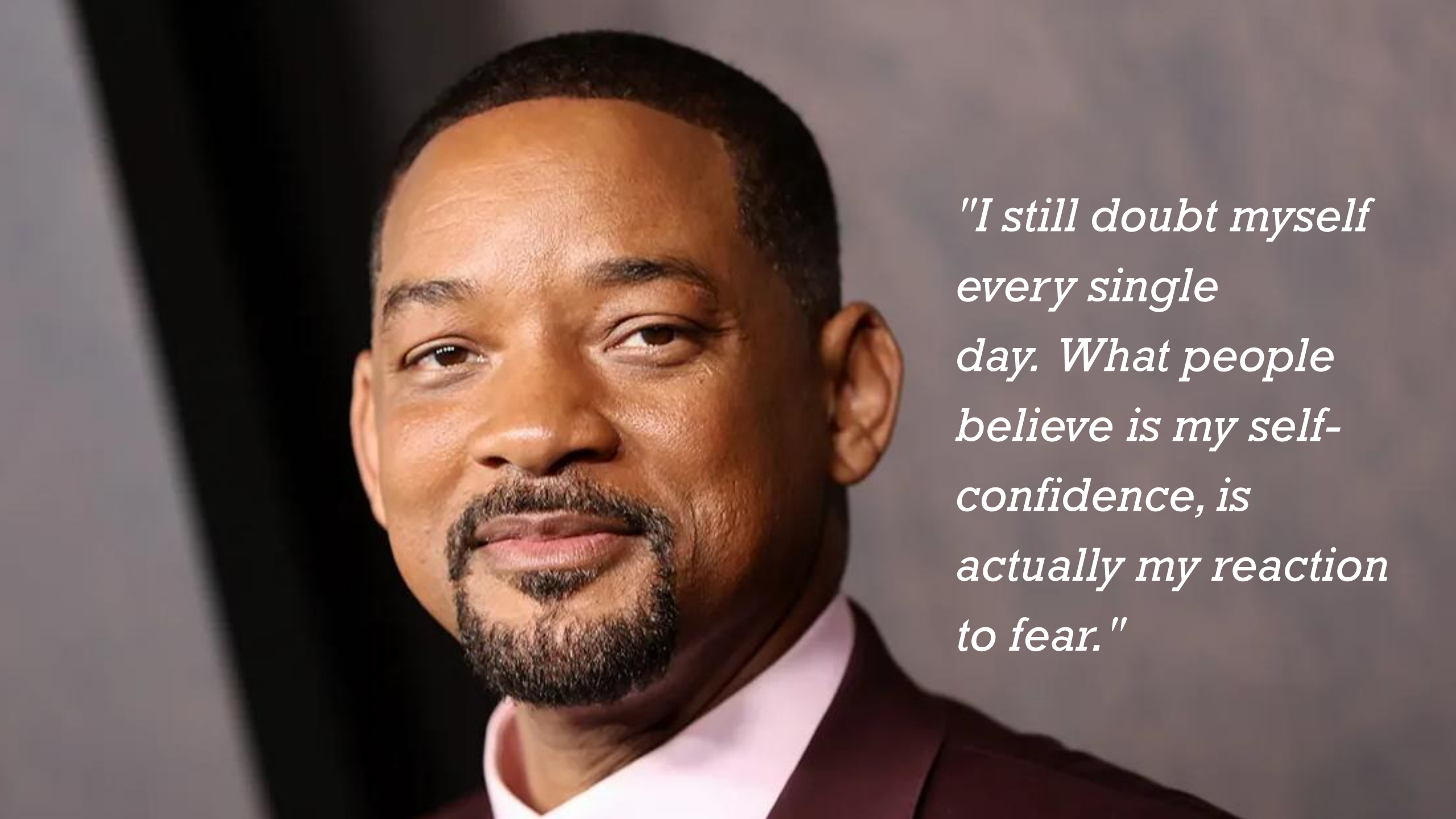
EXCLUSIVE

love  
& life:

DEMI  
MOORE

THE CONVERSATION WITH  
AMANDA  
DE CADENET



A close-up portrait of actor Will Smith. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a calm, thoughtful expression. He has a short, well-groomed beard and mustache. He is wearing a dark maroon suit jacket over a light pink collared shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

*"I still doubt myself every single day. What people believe is my self-confidence, is actually my reaction to fear."*





American Idol  
**32716**



**WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE IS TRYING TO CONVEY**











## David Armano

Chicago

**TASTE MAKER**

EVP @edelman digital, Global Innovation & Integration. Strategist, thinker, doer, dad, hubby to @msarmano, biker, karaoke junkie, and imperfect soul.



### Influential About

social media Marketing  
public relations media  
technology advertising

### Influenced By



### Influencer Of



### SCORE ANALYSIS

INFLUENCERS

ACHIEVEMENTS

## Score Analysis

**Nice work. Your Klout went up by 1 point in the past 30 days. Keep doing what you're doing.**



Your Score:

# 76

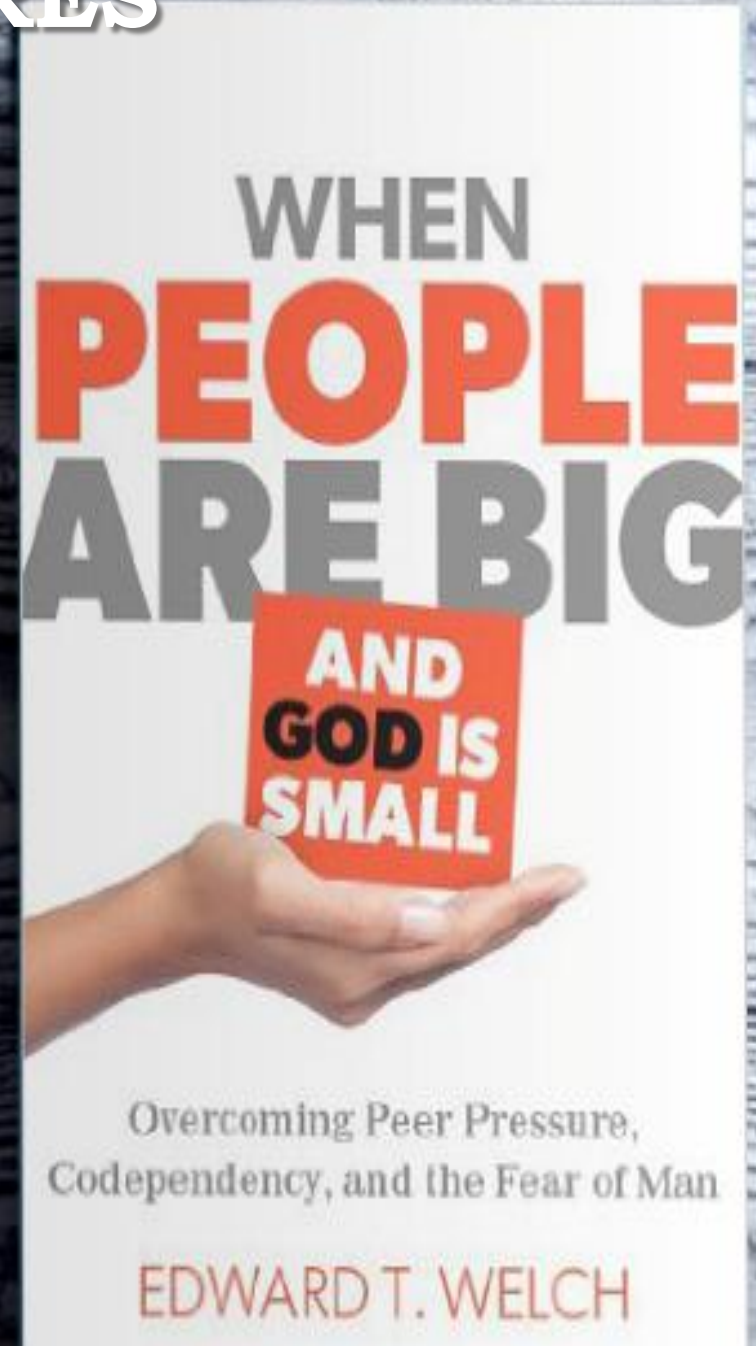
*You have built a very large and engaged network through high quality, trustworthy content*

retweets and mentions you get on Twitter and how many comments, wall posts, and likes you get on Facebook




## EVEN OUR NIGHT MARES

*that the love for the glory that comes from man comes down ultimately to “needing something from other people.” We need their approval, their love, their affirmation, and their attention to save us from our sense of insignificance and bestow value upon us.*





The image features a romantic and spiritual scene. In the center, the silhouettes of a man and a woman stand on a grassy plain, holding hands. They are positioned against a bright, low sun that creates a strong backlight effect, silhouetting their figures. To the left, a small flock of birds is captured in flight. To the right, a large, leafy tree stands prominently. The entire scene is reflected in a body of water at the bottom of the frame. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by the warm tones of the sunset.

Genesis 1:27 (ESV) So God  
created man in his own  
image,  
in the **image of God** he  
created him;  
male and female he created  
them.

Honor and Glory to reflect God





Foreword By  
**MATT CHANDLER**

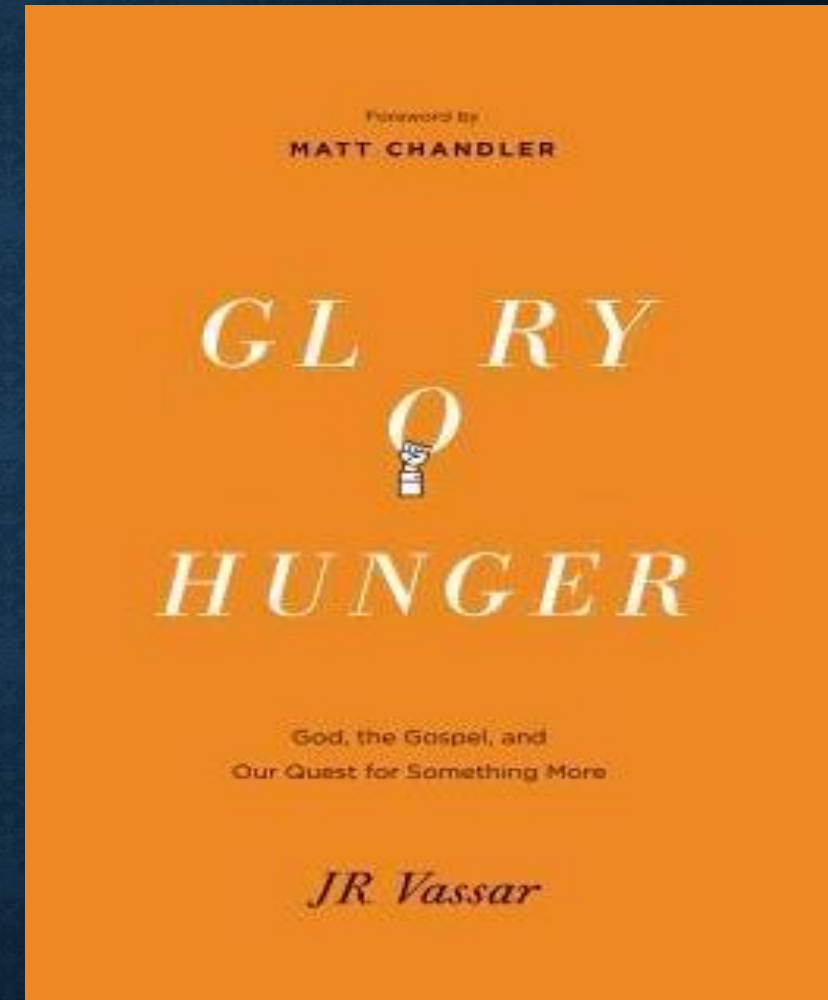
# GLORY HUNGER

God, the Gospel, and  
Our Quest for Something More

*JR Vassar*



*Our greatest need is to have that glory restored to us. Deep down, it is the unnamed ache of every life. We need to have his commendation over us, his image renewed in us, and greatness reclaimed for us. That is the legitimate glory hunger we all possess—to be restored to a glorious image and crowned with honor by God. Every glory-hunger pain we have for approval, acceptance,*





**BUILT FOR GLORY**







Sin can twist those desires,

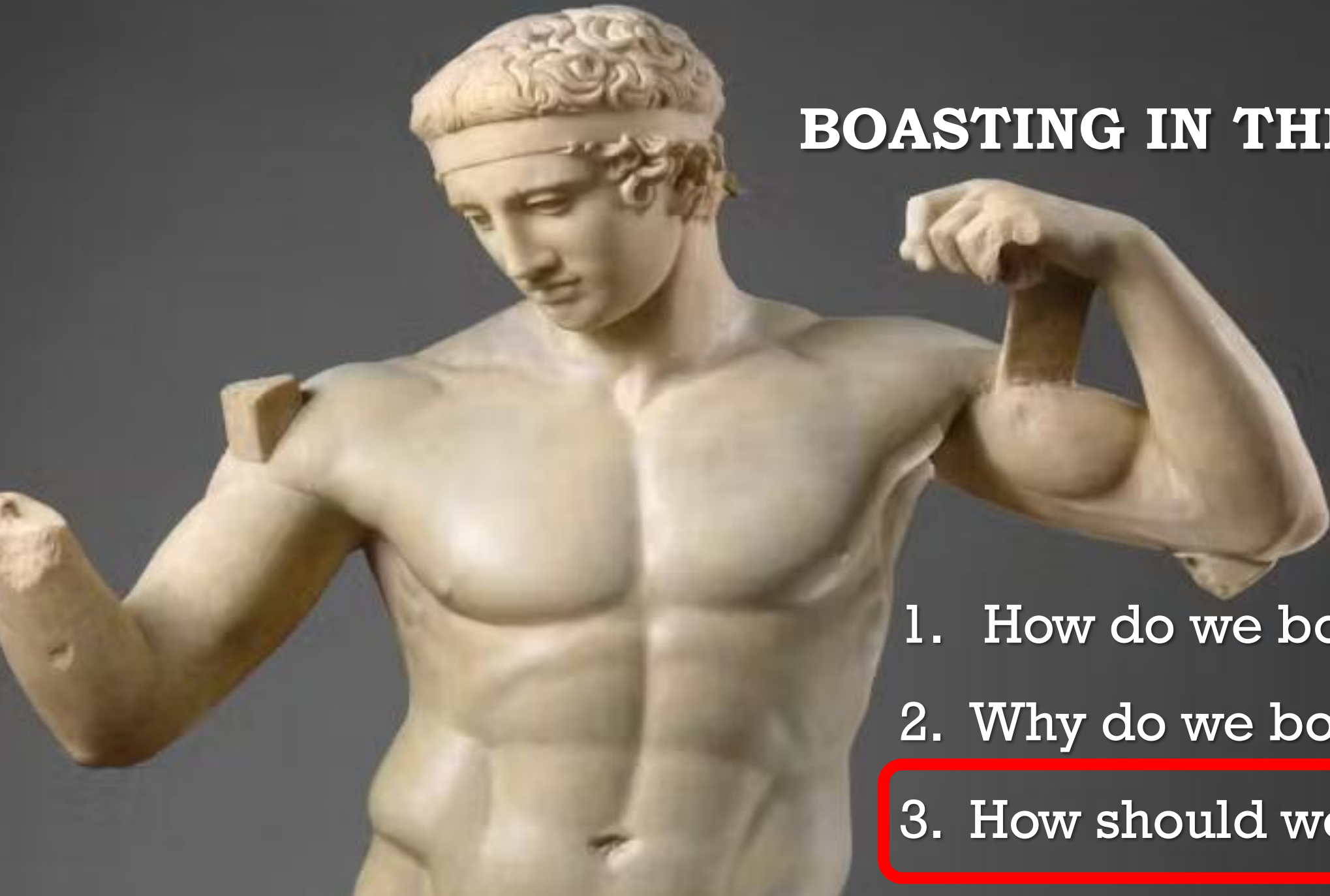












# BOASTING IN THE LORD

1. How do we boast
2. Why do we boast
3. How should we boast





# CHRISTIAN BOASTING

1.In the Lord

2.In Weakness

3.In Others





# CHRISTIAN BOSTING

## A. BOAST IN THE LORD

Galatians 6:14-16 (ESV) 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.





## OT PRINCIPLE

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV) 23 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, 24 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.”



**THE THINGS THAT  
YOUR IDENTITY AND  
SELF ESTEEM RELY  
UPON**

**CHRIST AND WHAT  
HE HAS DONE**







# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE BOAST IN THE LORD

Galatians 6:14-16 (ESV) 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.





# THE ISRAEL OF GOD

16 And as for all who walk by this rule,



Levitical Laws

Food laws  
Sacrifices

Circumcision





# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE BOAST IN THE LORD

Galatians 6:14-16 (ESV) 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.



# THE NEW CREATION

LIGHT AS METAPHOR OF INSIGHT



2 Corinthians 4:6  
For God, who said,  
“Let light shine  
out of darkness,”  
has shone in our  
hearts to give the  
light of the  
knowledge of the  
glory of God in  
the face of Jesus  
Christ.



# HOW DO WE GET THE PEACE AND MERCY

**IDENTIFY YOUR  
CIRCUMCISION**

Self Esteem

Self Identity

**BOASTING IN  
CHRIST**

**Vulnerable**



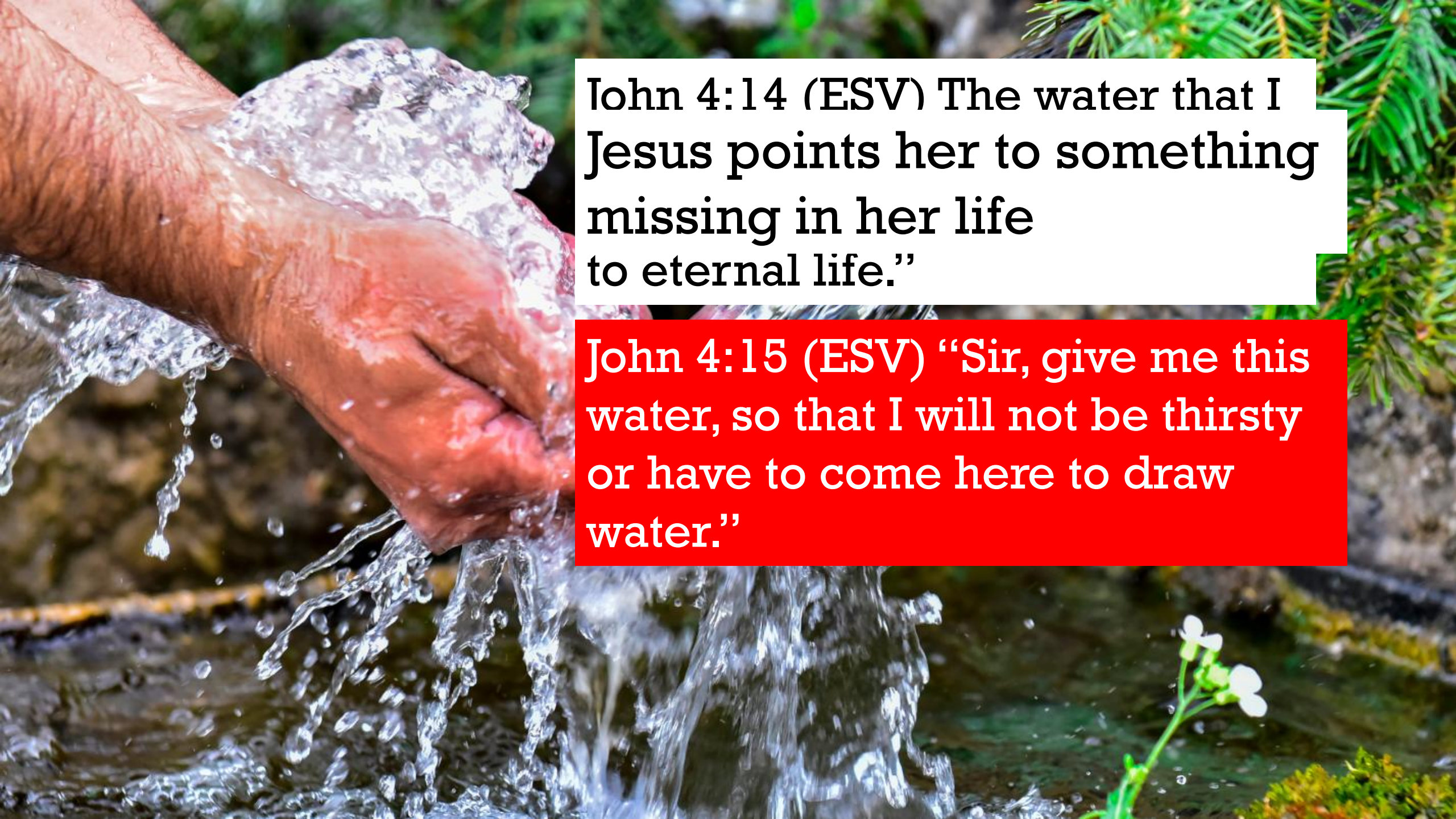


- Happy
- Achievement
- Optimism
- Satisfaction



- Despondant
- Anxious
- Worried
- Unhappy





John 4:14 (ESV) The water that I  
Jesus points her to something  
missing in her life  
to eternal life.”

John 4:15 (ESV) “Sir, give me this  
water, so that I will not be thirsty  
or have to come here to draw  
water.”





# IDENTIFY YOUR CIRCUMCISION



*John 4:16-18 (ESV) 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."*



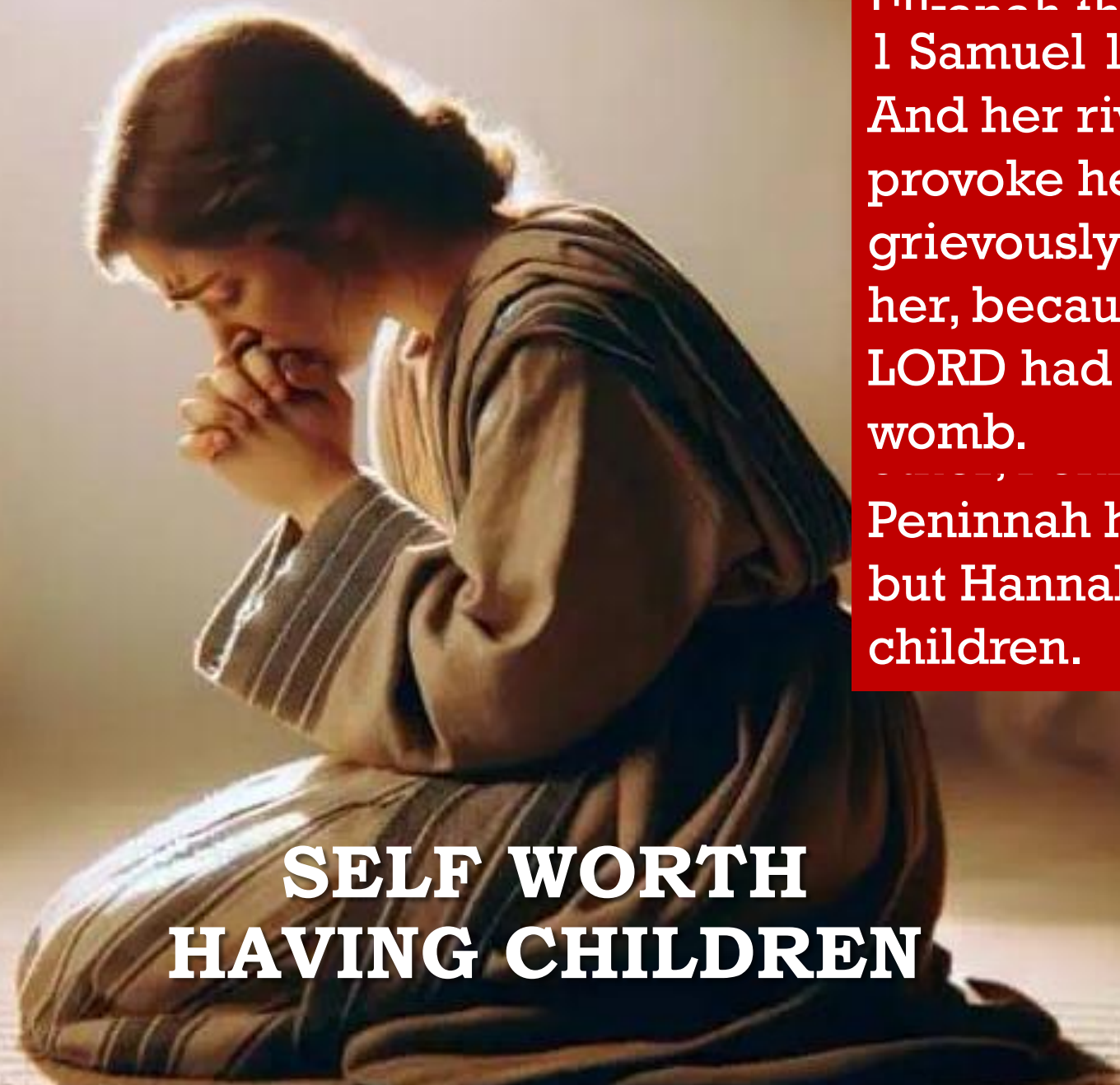
# REALISTIC EVALUATION

**SEXUALITY  
SELF WORTH  
HAPPINESS  
FULFILMENT IN  
HUSBANDS**

**ETERNAL  
SATISFACTION**







1 Samuel 1:1-2 (ESV)  
Although the son of  
1 Samuel 1:6 (ESV) 6  
And her rival used to  
provoke her  
grievously to irritate  
her, because the  
LORD had closed her  
womb.

Peninnah had children,  
but Hannah had no  
children.

**SELF WORTH  
HAVING CHILDREN**





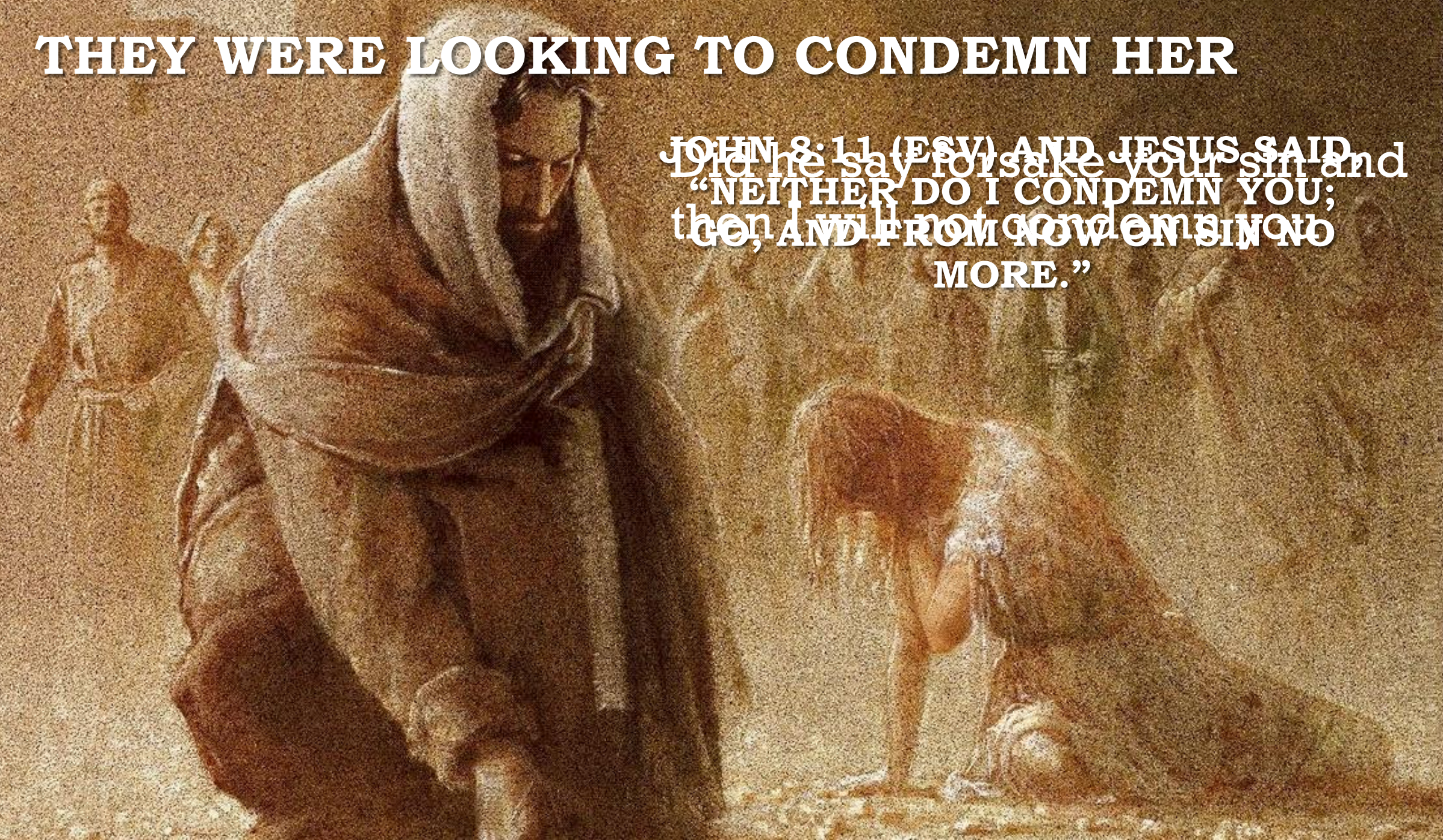
## **SELF WORTH BASED ON ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP**

1 Samuel 1:8 (ESV) And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”



# THEY WERE LOOKING TO CONDEMN HER

JOHN 8:11 (ESV) AND JESUS SAID,  
“NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU;  
then, AND FROM NOW ON SIN NO  
MORE.”





# REALISTIC EVALUATION

**ADULTERY  
SEXUAL DESIRE  
GUILT**

**GRACE  
FORGIVENESS**

She could  
now stand  
tall







**2 SAM 11-12**



# WHY DOES DAVID DO THIS?



Psalms 51 (ESV) Have **mercy on me, O God,**  
according to **your steadfast love;**  
according to your **abundant mercy**  
**blot out my transgressions.**

Psalms 51:3-4 (ESV) For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**4 Against you, you only, have I sinned**  
and done what is evil in your sight,



4 Against you, you only, have  
I sinned  
Ampun Tuanku

**IMPERSONAL**

**CONSEQUENCES**





# SIN IS PERSONAL BETRAYAL OF A LOVING GOD

Psalms 51:4 (ESV) Against you, you only,  
have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words

Focus is on the Person not the  
consequences



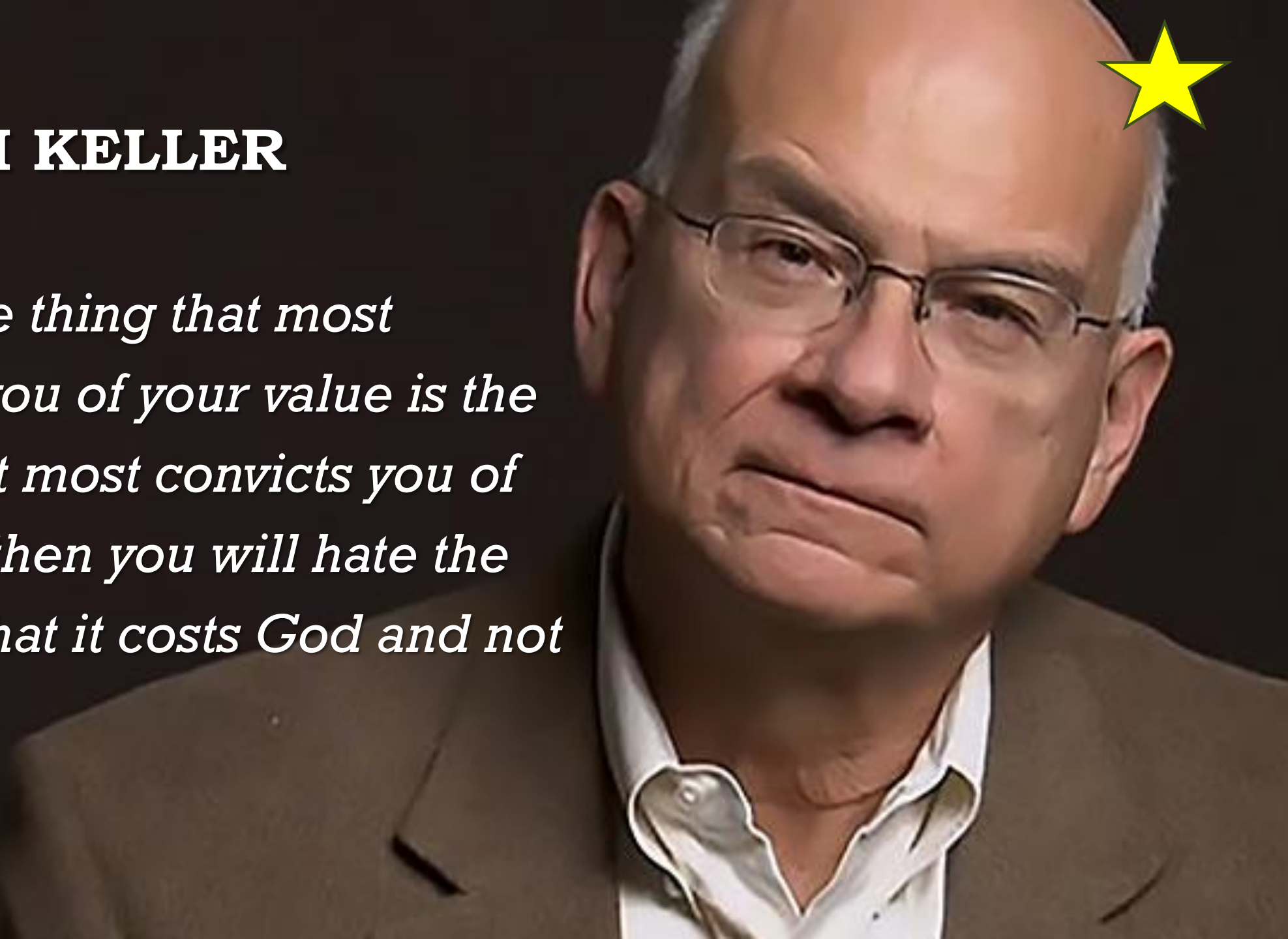
# DAVID'S GOD

- Psalms 36:5-10 (ESV) 5 Your steadfast love,  
O LORD, extends to the heavens,
- 7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
The children of mankind take refuge in the  
shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the  
abundance of your house,
- 10 Oh, continue your steadfast love to those  
who know you,



## TIM KELLER

*When the thing that most assures you of your value is the thing that most convicts you of your sin then you will hate the sin for what it costs God and not your self*





# WHY HARD TO REPENT

What you did is who  
you are

**IDENTIFY  
YOUR SIN**



Self Esteem

Self Identity

Refuse to repent as it  
diminishes our self  
worth





# WHY HARD TO REPENT

What He did is who  
you are

Hate and  
reject  
your sin

IDENTIFY  
YOUR SIN

GODS  
STEADFAST LOVE  
CHRIST LOVE  
AND WORK

Self Esteem

Self Identity





Galatians 6:1 (ESV) Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.



# GENTLENESS BECAUSE.....

What you did is  
who you are

IDENTIFY  
YOUR SIN



Self Esteem

Self Identity

Refuse to repent as it  
diminishes our self  
worth





# YOU WHO ARE SPIRITUAL

What He did is who  
you are

Hate and reject  
your sin

**IDENTIFY  
YOUR SIN**

**GODS  
STEADFAST LOVE  
CHRIST LOVE  
AND WORK**

Self Esteem

Self Identity

Not because you  
were more perfect



# TRUE GLORY-PEACE AND MERCY

**SELF**

Personal dignity  
Comfort  
Achievement

**CHRIST LOVE  
AND WORK**



Self Esteem

Self Identity



# CHRISTIAN BOSTING

## B. BOAST IN WEAKNESS

Galatians 6:17 From now on let

no one cause me trouble,

for (because)

I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.





# SLAVE TATTOOS

- Ownership
- Penalize slaves, criminals, and prisoners of war. ..list crimes
- 'Stop me, I'm a runaway!
- Humiliating and degrading; they also caused lifelong ostracism '





Medals of honor

Paul's Medals of honor

I bear on my  
body the marks  
of Jesus

2 Corinthians 11:23-29

Five times beaten 39  
lashes.

Three times I was beaten  
with rods.



# HIS CREDENTIALS



- 2 Corinthians 11:23-29
- Once I was stoned.
- Three times I was shipwrecked;
- Lost at sea a night and a day
- Danger from rivers, robbers, Jews and Gentiles in the wilderness
- Toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night,





## **CHRISTIAN BOSTING**

### **B. BOAST IN WEAKNESS**

2 Corinthians 11:30 (ESV) 30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.



Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.



## GLORY IS REVEALED IN OUR BROKENNESS



2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (ESV)  
7 But we have this treasure  
in jars of clay, to show  
that the surpassing power  
belongs to God and not to  
us.









## THE TRUE NATURE OF GLORY

John 12:22-24 (ESV) 22 Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, **The hour has come** for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; **but if it dies, it bears much fruit.**





## CONCEPT OF GLORY

“I thank the  
Lord Jesus  
Christ,”

Michael Chang  
French Open 1989



# PAULS GOSPEL VS FALSE GOSPEL



Night shade berries





## LIGHT AS METAPHOR OF INSIGHT

2 Corinthians 4:6  
For God, who said,  
“Let light shine out  
of darkness,” has  
shone in our  
hearts to give the  
light of the  
knowledge of the  
glory of God in  
the face of Jesus  
Christ.



An aerial, high-angle photograph of a roundabout at night. The roundabout has a central green island with a white star-shaped pattern. Four main roads intersect at the roundabout, with light trails from cars visible. The surrounding area is densely packed with buildings, many of which have blue roofs. The overall scene is illuminated by the warm orange light of the streetlights and the cool blue light of the city buildings.

**GLORY IS CROSS SHAPED**

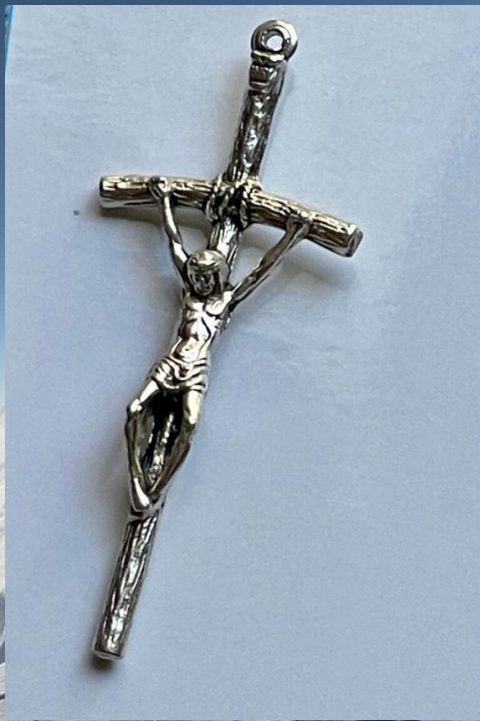




## CHRISTIAN BOSTING C. BOAST IN OTHERS

2 Corinthians 7:3-4 (ESV) 3 I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. 4 I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.









## BELOVED OF THE LORD

2 Samuel 12:24-25 (ESV) Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him 25 and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name **Jedidiah,** because of the LORD.





Brandon D. Smith is Assistant Professor of Theology and New Testament at Cedarville University



*I'm not good enough, I'm not smart enough, my wife doesn't appreciate me enough, my daughter doesn't respect me enough—the cross reminds me that I'm not as worthless as I think I am. I am loved and approved of by my heavenly Father through his Son and by his Spirit.*





- *Work is more fulfilling when I remember that God has placed me there for a purpose. Marriage is more joyful than I could've ever imagined when I remember that faithfulness trumps lust, perseverance trumps comfort, and displaying the gospel trumps an Instagram couple-selfie.*





- *My self-esteem, good or bad, cannot sustain me. It's a toothpick house in a tornado. But because of the esteem of Christ—his perfect love on full, bloody display—I am redeemed, made whole. No power of Hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand.*



## **BENEDICTION**

1 Timothy 6:15-16 (ESV) he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.