

Grace Mail

Part of the ugliness of boasting is the selfishness and pride it so clearly displays. Yet here in this passage the apostle Paul is encouraging believers to participate in a positive boasting. While self-promotion leaves a bad taste in other's mouths, the exaltation of others is wonderful to behold. As Christians, we are to make much of Christ. When we do it demonstrates the transformation that has taken place within.

Boast In Christ (part 2) – Galatians 6:14

“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Notice how specific Paul is. He states that the world has been crucified to him and him to the world. The phrase “you are dead to me” implies that someone has departed so thoroughly from ones good graces that it is as if they died. Paul is saying that the world is dead to him. He is no longer interested in associating with it or having anything to do with the world. “World” is the Greek word κόσμος (kosmos). The idea of this word is the *world system. The people constituting the world whose values, beliefs, and morals are in distinction and rebellion to God's.* That is what Paul has died to.

World is the idea of those in rebellion to God. Those living contrary to the values, beliefs, and morals presented in Scripture. It is everything in contrast to the things of Christ. Paul further states that he has been crucified to the world. This relates the idea that the world does not love us as its own. We bring conviction on the world, we counter the culture in our pursuit of righteousness. We no longer fit in. The world is no longer comfortable with us nor we with the world.

Galatians 2:20 says *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* Christ lives in us! We live by faith in Him! When this is the reality of our lives, we no longer live as we once did. That old way of life is now dead to us.

The Cross is what makes all of this a reality. We identify ourselves with the crucified and risen Lord and that alienates us from the world. Yet Paul states that He will boast in the Cross because of this alienation! We are Christ's! That is something to boast in.

My prayer is that each one of us would boast in the reality that we belong to Jesus.