



CONFIDENCE 4 Boldness



→ *What does boldness mean to you? Are you bold? Who else do you know who is?*

BOLDNESS DEFINED: To be bold is to step out with FAITH, COURAGE & AUTHORITY, confident in what we SAY, who we ARE and what He's DONE.

* In essence, boldness is GOD inside of you COMING OUT.

WHY SHOULD WE EXPRESS BOLDNESS?

1. The WORLD desperately needs SOMEONE to be bold.

* There's a LEADERSHIP void, a MORALITY vacuum and QUESTIONS they just cannot ANSWER.

2. Because our boldness is WELL-FOUNDED.

→ *Why is it important for the church to be bold? For us to 'find our voice'? For you, personally, to become bolder?*

HOW DO WE EXPRESS THAT BOLDNESS?

There are fine lines because there's a PSEUDO-boldness ... COUNTERFEITS that manifest as ARROGANCE, PRIDE, ANGER, JUDGMENT.

* BOLDNESS is a message spoken in LOVE delivered with the WEIGHT of HEAVEN behind you.

* ANGER is a message spoken in FRUSTRATION with NEGATIVE EMOTIONS driving you.

* ARROGANCE is a message spoken in PRIDE with SELF-IMPORTANCE leading you.

* JUDGMENT is a message spoken in SUPERIORITY with SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS motivating you.

→ *What are the dangers here? Is it easy to slip across the line? Do you know people who think they're bold, but in fact they're something else? Is it possible for our boldness to be misinterpreted? How?*

→ *"Fear is a spirit that keeps you sitting; boldness helps you to stand. Humility reminds us when to sit again; pride never sits, it only stands." Discuss*

If BOLDNESS = God inside of you coming out

* If it's GOD, you can be BOLD.

* If it's YOU, then you need to be CAUTIOUS.

* If it's ANYTHING ELSE you need to be QUIET.

→ *Do you know when boldness is called for? Are you good at holding back when it isn't? What qualifies as the 'anything else' here?*

How do you know if it's God coming out? By the FRUIT (Galatians 5:22)

* It won't be PROUD, ANGRY, SELF-CENTRED, BELITTLING, but instead GRACE & TRUTH, LOVE & KINDNESS.

→ *What 'fruit' does boldness produce? What fruit do the counterfeits produce?*

WHEN CAN WE JUSTIFIABLY BE BOLD?

A. When we're standing on the ROCK

(Hebrews 10:19-22, Ephesians 3:12, 2 Corinthians 3:12)

* Before you LEAP out BOLDLY, look down and CHECK where your FEET are!

→ What is the 'Rock' and why can we be so confident standing on it?

→ *Do you 'look before you leap'? How do you 'look down and check where your feet are planted' before you exercise your boldness?*

→ *"How bold one gets when one is sure of being loved" (Sigmund Freud) Discuss.*

B. When we're standing on the PROMISES

(2 Corinthians 1:20, Isaiah 55:10-11, Jeremiah 1:12)

* All the promises of God are YES and AMEN in Christ

→ *What does it mean to say that the promises of God are Yes and Amen in Christ? Why can we be so confident in His promises (see Isa 55 and Jer 1:12)*

"God said it, I believe it and that settles it." Does that describe you?

C. When we're standing in the POWER of the GOSPEL

(Romans 1:16, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6)

* The gospel is the POWER of God and more than capable of LOOKING AFTER ITSELF.

→ *Are you 'ashamed of the gospel'? What does that look like? Are you shy or bold to proclaim the gospel? Are you a gospel seed sower, remembering that we can trust God to make the seed grow?*

D. When we're standing in the POWER of the SPIRIT

(2 Timothy 1:7, Matthew 14:27-29)

* I can be remarkably bold, HIDING BEHIND my BIG BROTHER.

→ *What 'Spirit' do you carry? Is it bold? What can we learn from Jesus' example (for example, turning the tables in the temple)? What about Peter walking on water? When Jesus says 'come,' do you? Do you even ask? What might change if you did?*

WHAT DOES BOLDNESS DO?

1. Puts the ENEMY in his place and GOD in His.

2. Releases KINGDOM AUTHORITY for KINGDOM PURPOSES.

3. Enables others to CATCH your GOD-CONFIDENCE.

→ *How do these work? What else does boldness do?*

WHAT THEN SHOULD WE DO?

1. WALK with the CONFIDENT ONE (Acts 4:13)

→ *Their boldness came out of relationship + so will yours. Discuss*

2. ASK the Lord for boldness (Acts 4:29-31)

* Edwin Louis Cole: "PRAYER in PRIVATE results in BOLDNESS in PUBLIC."

→ *How do you walk with the Confident One? What does it look like to walk 'tucked in behind your big brother'? Do you pray for boldness? Why not take time to do so now!*