





Seeking Your Own Glory

4

- ➤ What is an example of someone who "seeks their own glory" above the interests of others?

 (e.g., professional athlete more interested in their stats than the team's win)
- > What do we tend to think about that kind of person?
- ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (Phil 2:3-4)

The Ultimate Purpose of All Things

> And so if I would say that God is relentlessly pursuing his own glory above all things, how would that sit with you?

"The great end of God's works, which is so variously expressed in Scripture, is indeed but one; and this one end is most properly and comprehensively called, the glory of God."

(Jonathan Edwards, "The End For Which God Created the World")

5

Big Idea of the Lesson

6

Because God is supreme and infinitely worthy, his glory is both his highest purpose and our highest purpose.

Or, a John Piper has put it...

God is most glorified in us as we are most satisfied in him.

Part 1 God's Purpose in All He Does

The chief end of God is to glorify God and enjoy himself forever.

That is, the glory of God is the ultimate purpose of what he does.

God has many goals for why he does things, but none are more ultimate than this. All other goals are means to this end.

Definition 8

"God's Glory"-

- ➤ the visible splendor (often described as light) or moral beauty of God's manifold perfections
- > the infinite moral excellence of His being and character
- > the reality of His infinite greatness and worth
- ➤ God's honor or reputation

"Glory" is translated from the Hebrew word *kabôd*, which comes from the verb root meaning "to be heavy."

Thus, in the Hebrew mind, a person's importance was thought of in terms of "weightiness."

It is translated from the Greek word *doxa*, from the verb root meaning "to think," referring to the opinion the person holds about himself or to what others think of him; i.e., his reputation.

Both the Hebrew and Greek terms essentially refer to the importance of the person.

Because God *IS* ultimately glorious, everything should EXPRESS glory (honor, praise) to him.

Let's very briefly survey what God pursues in all of His works—the purpose behind everything He does.

1. God created people for his glory

9

Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the end of the earth, every one who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory. (Isaiah 43:6-7)

2. God saves us for his glory

10

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions <u>for My own sake</u>, and I will not remember your sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

<u>For my own sake</u>, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? <u>I will not yield my glory to another</u>. (Isaiah 48:11)

2. God saves us for his glory

11

²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: <u>It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name</u>, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.... ²⁴ "'For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:22-26)

2. God saves us for his glory

12

²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. <u>He did this to demonstrate his justice</u>, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-²⁶ ... so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. (Rom 3:25-26)

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (Eph 1:4-6)

In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12)

3. Jesus' motivation is the glory of God

13

He who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but <u>he who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true</u>, and in him there is no falsehood. (John 7:18)

Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it <u>that the Father may be</u> <u>glorified</u> in the Son. (John 14:13)

God's Delight in His Glory is a Good Thing!

14

"Because God is unique as an all-glorious, totally self-sufficient Being, he must be for himself if he is to be for us. The rules of humility that belong to a creature cannot apply in the same way to its Creator. If God should turn away from himself as the Source of infinite joy, he would cease to be God. He would deny the ultimate worth of his own glory. He would imply that there is something more valuable outside himself. He would commit idolatry." (John Piper, Desiring God)

DISCUSS: What could God give us that would prove him to be most loving towards us?

Himself!

We tend to want God to give us stuff... things other than himself. Blessings of God, to be sure, but not God himself: successful career, loving family, good health, wealth, etc. If he blesses us with this stuff, we think he loves us. If he doesn't, he must be mad at us.

But God is glorious, in part, because he seeks the satisfaction of his people in what is ultimately glorious. Why would we want God to encourage us to express our highest love and adoration, to find our highest satisfaction and pleasure, in something that wasn't infinitely worthy and beautiful? Piper explains: "... we do not turn God's self-exaltation into love by demanding that God cease to be God. Instead, we must come to see that God is love precisely because he relentlessly pursues the praises of his name in the hearts of his people."

! Important Point

15

God's desire for our praise and worship is not because he is insecure or vain, but because he loves us and wants us to delight in what is ultimately valuable.

16

"I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the <u>praise</u> <u>not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment</u>... the delight is incomplete until it is expressed." (C. S. Lewis, *Reflections On the Psalms*)

"God is the only Being in all the universe for whom seeking his own praise is the ultimately loving act. For him, self-exaltation is the highest virtue. When he does all things 'for the praise of his glory,' he preserves for us and offers to us the only thing in all the world which can satisfy our longings. God is for us! And the foundation of this love is that God has been, is now, and always will be, for himself." (John Piper)

Part 2 God's Purpose for Us

"Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever."
(Westminster Shorter Catechism #1)

Three Types of Glory

18

- > Glory of God—his intrinsic greatness, beauty, and worth
- Glory to God—acknowledging his majesty in worship and by living for his glory
- ➤ Glory <u>from</u> God—finding satisfaction and joy in receiving our identity, worth, and value from God

We've talked about the first and we've suggested the second and third.

Let's think more about the third one... [next slide]

1. We Were Created for Glory

19

¹ Lord, our Lord, how majestic is <u>your name</u> in all the earth! ... ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers... ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ <u>You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.</u> ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: (Psalm 8)

The psalm begins by affirming the glory of God.

And while reflecting on God's glory expressed through the massive scope of creation, David is utterly baffled by the fact that God is mindful of us.

But the fact that God created us (alone!) as his image-bearers and crowned us with glory and honor and entrusted to us the privilege of representing the reign and rule of his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven... All that leads him to worship and glorify God even more!

Our problem is that the essence of our "fallenness" is that this status as the crowing point of creation representing God was not enough for us. <u>We</u> wanted to be supreme; we wanted everything to be about <u>us</u>.

2. We Fell From Glory

20

- ⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.
- ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and <u>you will be like God</u> (Genesis 3:4-5)
- ➤ What does it mean to try to "be like God"?
- ^{22b} There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have <u>sinned and fall short of the glory of God</u>... (Rom 3:22-23)
- ➤ What does it mean to "fall short of the glory of God"?

What does it mean to try to "be like God"?

We forfeited the glory God created us with by trying to establish our own glory independent from God's gift.

We are seeking glory in any place we can find it <u>apart from</u> our relationship with God. This is the essence of idolatry.

As a result, we are all burdened with an instinctive search for that unknown quality that will satisfy us.

All our efforts to to find praise, power, and pleasure are simply pursuits of counterfeit glory.

What does it mean to "fall short of the glory of God"?

It doesn't mean that we were supposed to be as glorious as God! In light of Rom 1:23, it seems to mean that we don't acknowledge God's glory. We exchange it for something of far lesser value. The very essence of sin is not putting supreme value on the glory of God.

- Romans is clear that NONE of us glorify God the way we ought. We have held the glory of God in contempt.
- None of us has trusted God the way we should. None has shown Him the

gratitude we ought.

- We have trusted in ourselves. We have taken credit for His gifts.
- We have rejected His authority because we think we know better.
- We have placed idols in His place in the affections of our heart and the driving force of our lives.

And for this idolatrous misplacement of value, Scripture says we are condemned by the justice of God.

Nevertheless, God has made a way to save us from this terrible problem...

3. We Are Saved For Glory

21

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. (1 Timothy 1:15)

- ... God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is <u>Christ in you, the hope of glory</u>. (Colossians 1:27)
- > What does "Christ in you" mean?
- > How does our identity in Christ give us the glory we seek?

Christ in you...

Coming into a personal, life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ, resulting in his indwelling presence.

Identity in Christ...

Supremely loved

Declared righteous

Guilt and shame is taken away

We have nothing to prove—we are worth so much to God that he would send his Son for us

etc.

4. We Experience Glory from God by Living for the Glory of God

22

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:44-46)

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." (John Piper)

4. We Experience Glory from God by Living for the Glory of God

23

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, <u>do it all for the glory of</u> <u>God</u>. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ... ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:17, 23-24)

"... seeking first the kingdom of God will not mean that we ignore daily matters so we may focus exclusively upon him, but it will mean that in every area of life we passionately strive to honor God." (Michael Wittmer, Heaven Is A Place On Earth)

4. We Experience Glory from God by Living for the Glory of God

24

- > What might it look like for Christ to be the supreme joy of your life?
 - > What are you living for? What occupies your central thoughts?
 - > How do you live for the glory of God at work?
 - > By raising kids?
 - > Through personal and corporate worship/devotions?
 - > By commending him to others in word (evangelism) and deed (mercy)?
 - ➤ etc.?
- > In short, what is God saying to you today about this issue?