



THE VERTICAL LIFE

THE VERTICAL PURPOSE:

WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE?

That all things at all times should glorify Him

There are numerous verses in the Bible that show God's zeal for His own glory.

Read the following verses:

Isaiah 43:6-7

Isaiah 49:3

Matthew 5:16

John 14:13

John 12:27,28

Romans 15:7

John 16:14

1 Corinthians 10:31

1 Peter 4:11

What does it mean to glorify God?

Glory as used in the Scriptures

Splendor of shining light; actual brilliant shining light or some other visible manifestation that indicates the presence God. In the following verses what were the visible manifestations of the glory of God?

Exodus 40:34

Matthew 17:1-5

Acts 7:55

Reputation and fame

Literally "heavy" or "weighty"

The word in this sense refers to something that causes a person to carry weight with others; that which is impressive about a person.

What do the following verses indicate was impressive about Jacob and Joseph?

Genesis 31:1 (Jacob)

Genesis 45:13 (Joseph)

A Working Definition

When we speak of people glorifying God, we are referring to loving God and living so that His qualities or characteristics shine forth from our lives. As we do this He is glorified or praised. That which is impressive about Him is displayed.

I Peter 2:9 -10:

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of [show forth the virtues of] the one who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

What significance does this have in your daily life?

In what kinds of situations or settings does this apply?

Give an example to illustrate your answer.

Understanding God has designed all things to be for His glory, continue the study to learn how God has designed His glory to be displayed.

How God's glory has been displayed

In Creation

Isaiah 6:3 *"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

Psalms 19:1 *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*

What are some things in creation that display the knowledge of God?

Romans 1:18-23

"...For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made so that men are without excuse..."

What two qualities of God are displayed through creation?

Through people

As creation reveals something of God, people also reveal something of God but to a greater degree. People were created in God's image to glorify Him. People are to put on display what is true of God in His thoughts, words and actions. People reflect more of God's nature because we are created in his image.

Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

Even our continued existence is not for us, but for God's glory.

Colossians 1:16

"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

When we are living according to God's design God is pleased, glorified and we are satisfied. Most people (do, do not) endeavor to find satisfaction in God and thereby glorify Him.

List some things you see in our culture that people pursue other than God and his glory and the effects of those choices.

(example:) Living for money – always want more, neglect family

Something has gone wrong.

How our ability to glorify God was distorted.

The entrance of sin into the world has distorted our ability to bear His image thereby severely hindering our desire and effectiveness in glorifying Him. We no longer clearly show forth what is impressive about God. Thus man is alienated from his created purpose. Until his chief pursuit is again the glory of God, he will be searching in vain for ultimate satisfaction - chasing phantoms. The distortion of our created purpose is the root of personal trouble and the trouble that exists in our relationship with God and others.

According to Gen 3:1-19 *How did Adam and Eve stray from their created purpose?*

What were some of the things they said or did after their original sin that gave evidence that their ability to glorify God was distorted?

According to Romans 1:21-25 what exchange was (is) sinful man willing to make that affects his ability to glorify God?

God in his grace and love wants us to be restored to the place where we find our satisfaction in Him, love Him and live for His glory. That is the condition that he described as "very good" in Genesis 1:31.

How our ability to glorify God is restored

It is our estrangement from God due to our sin that must be corrected. That problem of sin is taken care of through God's work of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Reconciliation

In order for an individual to be reconciled to God the problem of sin must be judged. God's judgment of sin fell upon Jesus Christ (1 John 2:2.)

A person can be reconciled to God not by good deeds but by God's grace through faith in Christ. (Romans 10:9,10; II Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 2:8,9)

Have you believed the Gospel and placed your faith in Jesus Christ?

Give a brief description of how you came to faith in Christ for your salvation.

Justification

When we come to God through faith in Christ, we are justified (declared righteous). Our alienation from God, our sin, our debt, was atoned for by the death and resurrection of Christ.

Romans 3:23-24

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace and through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Romans 5:1

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"

II Corinthians 5:21

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"

What was lost in the fall of mankind into sin is reversed in salvation, including, our desire and ability to glorify God.

Sanctification

Now, as redeemed people, we are set apart from sin and to God for His purposes, for His glory.

This is what is referred to as sanctification. In our sanctification what is true of us positionally in Christ (we are declared righteous), God begins working out in us practically. We begin to think, speak and act in righteous ways.

Ephesians 5:8-10

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, live as children of light...and find out what pleases the Lord."

II Corinthians 3:18

"And we...are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

The way God restores us to bearing His image, to living to display His virtues, is by conforming us to the image of His Son.

Romans 8:28-29

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Making us like Christ is how God enables us to now live for His glory. The word "likeness" in v. 29 refers to the outward expression of an inward essence or nature. Once we are justified (declared righteous – Romans 5:1) by faith in Christ, positionally we have the righteousness of Christ that qualifies us for fellowship with God now (Col. 1:12) and eternally. What is true of us positionally, God immediately begins to make true of us practically. This is the "all things" that "work together for good." God uses all the circumstance of our lives to accomplish our restored purpose– the "good" of making us like Christ. As we are transformed in our inner man to resemble the Lord Jesus, that inner change brings about a change of outward expression that reflects the character of Christ. The image of God in us which was distorted by sin is now becoming more and more distinctly like Jesus Christ as we mature, grow and change.

As this growth in godliness takes place we glorify God more and more. As we glorify God more and more and live according to his design whatever the circumstances we experience the fullness of life that God has promised. (John 10:10; 13:16,17; Matthew 11:28; James 1:25)

Circle the word that best describes your desire to glorify God?

Never seldom sometimes often always

When you are not choosing to glorify God what most often do you find is your motivation in life?

In the space provided write 1 Corinthians 10:31 and then memorize it.

Make it your daily prayer that God would nurture within you a desire to live for His glory.

Record some examples of how you can glorify God in the coming week at:

Home:

Work:

School:

Church:

DIGGING DEEPER: (Recommended Books)

Desiring God – John Piper

Quest for More - Paul Tripp

Joy of Fearing God - Jerry Bridges