

Living God glorifying lives

By nature, we are self centred and tend to exalt ourselves above God and others. At times it is blatant exaltation and at other times it's a more subtle drawing the focus of attention to ourselves. We do good things and expect a pat on the back, and can get quite annoyed if that doesn't happen. A heart that has been transformed by Jesus wants all the glory to go to God for all things. John Piper says, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him". When our satisfaction is in him and not in ourselves and the pleasure of this world we will live lives that glorify him.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1) What does it mean to glorify God?

- The first point of the Westminster catechism asks the question: "What is the chief end of man?"
 - The reply to that is: Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.
- A common misconception amongst Christians and non-Christians alike is that if we live lives solely to the glory of God we have to live sullen lives devoid of all joy.
 - On the contrary to live joyless lives does anything but glorify God.
- God wants us to enjoy him and, in doing so, we will enjoy the life that he has given us.
 - Isaiah 12:2-3 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
 - Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
- We have seen in brief of what it doesn't mean to glorify God i.e. to live sullen and somber lives devoid of all joy. But what does it mean to glorify God?
- In a brief statement we can say that living according to his Word, and aligning our thoughts and attitudes it will glorify God.
 - Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
 - Delighting in or taking pleasure in the Word of God not only means that you enjoy reading it and meditating on it, but that you take pleasure in finding out what pleases God and doing it.
- Having the idea that God wants us to enjoy life so we can go enjoy the world that is contrary to his Word is a false concept. That's merely self-centeredness with no desire to glorify God at all.
 - Romans 1:21-23 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles
- What does it mean to glorify God?
 - "Glorifying" means feeling and thinking and acting in ways that reflect his greatness, that make much of God, that give evidence of the supreme greatness of all his attributes and the all-satisfying beauty of his manifold perfections. (John Piper)
 - To glorify God is to turn our, and the attention of others, to God in what we say, our attitudes, our actions, and our reactions.
 - It is for people to look at our overall behaviour and say, "God is a great, wonderful, and awesome God".

2) The glorification of God comes from God himself.

- God is zealous for his glory
 - Isaiah 48:9-11 **For my own name's sake** I delay my wrath; **for the sake of my praise** I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely. See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. **For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this.** How can I let myself be defamed? **I will not yield my glory to another.**
- We cannot glorify God apart from him himself.
 - John 15:4-8 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**
 - We need to abide in Christ as a branch is attached to the vine.
 - We can't bear fruit unless we abide in Christ.
 - When we abide in Christ we will bear much fruit.
 - The Father is glorified in us bearing much fruit.
 - This proves that we are Jesus' disciples – that he produces the fruit in us that brings glory to God.
- God expects us to be as zealous for his glory as he is, and he also provides the means for his name to be glorified in and through us.

3) In what ways do we glorify God?

- As our text says "whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
 - All of life is to be lived for the glory of God, not only our church life.
 - We can't praise and worship God in church then go home and swear at the family or the neighbours and think that we brought glory to God because we went to church. On the contrary because we went to church then behaved like that outside of church we brought dishonour to God, not glory to his name.
- We glorify God by doing good works.
 - Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- We glorify God in the way we serve others.
 - 1 Peter 4:11 If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
- We glorify God by the way we accept one another
 - Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
- God is all in all and all the glory goes to him in everything.
 - Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.