

Jesus' prayer for believers

Glorifying Jesus

No one can honor the Father who does not also honor His Son (John 5:23), and the Son humbly honored and valued people with grace and kindness. To glorify God is to mirror His image, which is to love, and to love generously, as He does. No one can glorify God as perfectly as Christ did, which is why we are in need of His mercy, but to believe in Jesus is to believe not only what He did for us but in the wisdom of the life that He *modeled* for us.

Dr. Michael Whiting

So, if Jesus glorified God by mirroring His image, then for us to glorify Jesus would mean that we would need to mirror His image.

John 17:9-10

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

1) The glory of God revealed in Jesus

- John 17:10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine.
- Jesus didn't only come to reveal God to mankind; He is God revealed
 - John 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.
 - John 10:29-30 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."
 - John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Thus, to glorify Jesus is to glorify God Himself.
 - When we see the works of Jesus, we see the works of God
 - When we see the character of Jesus, we see the character of God
 - When we hear the words of Jesus, we hear the words of God
 - When we worship Jesus, we worship God
 - When we serve Jesus, we serve God
 - When we're changed into the image of Jesus, we're changed into the image of God
- We then have the question answered: "Shouldn't we glorify God and not Jesus?"

2) Believers are God's possession

- John 17:9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.
- It is only those who belong to God who bring glory to Jesus
 - 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- We were children of darkness held captive to sin and under the power and oppression of Satan
 - A person in such a state can never exalt Jesus as they do not know Him and are distant from Him
 - Such a person lives in rebellion to God and lives a lifestyle that dishonours Him
 - All that the person in the kingdom of darkness faces is the wrath of God – they are without hope and without God in the world
- It is in this state of absolute hopelessness that God, who is rich in mercy, reaches out and redeems us – buys us back for himself – and makes us His very own precious possession
 - He sets us free from sin and death
 - He lavishes His love on us and calls us His children
 - He gives us a hope and future

- It is a redeemed people whose lives are being transformed into the image of Jesus
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
 - Our transformation isn't complete and immediate. We are being changed into His image from glory to glory.
 - This process will continue until He comes again and we'll then be changed to be like Him in a twinkling of an eye
- Jesus matured holistically and so our transformation to be like Him must also be holistic
 - Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.
 - Wisdom – mentally. A renewal of the mind
 - Stature – physically and emotionally
 - Favour with God – spiritually
 - Favour with man – socially
- When we become Christians, we focus all our attention on spiritual change and tend to ignore the other aspects of life that also need to be changed to be like Jesus
 - We focus on prayer, but ignore being rude to people at work
 - We focus on reading the Bible, but retain worldly ways of thinking
 - We focus on worship, but we don't restrain the constant losing of our tempers
- God's people who allow God to transform every aspect of our beings to be like Jesus glorify Him

3) How do believers glorify Jesus?

- Westminster Shorter Catechism: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
- Christian Hedonism is the conviction that God's ultimate goal in the world (his glory) and our deepest desire (to be happy) are one and the same, because God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him. Not only is God the supreme source of satisfaction for the human soul, but God himself is glorified by our being satisfied in him. Therefore, our pursuit of joy in him is essential. John Piper
- A transformed life glorifies God
 - Galatians 1:23-24 They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.
 - A person who battled with substance abuse is set free
 - Someone who struggled with a bad temper now controls it
 - A boastful person becomes noticeably humble
 - A wronged person who always spoke about revenge forgives and promotes forgiveness
- Declare the praises of God
 - 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
 - However, declaring the praises of God should match up with a transformed life otherwise they bring dishonour to Him rather than glorify Him.