

ON GLORIFYING GOD

I. Various Scriptures

A. Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV) are Jesus' red letter words at the Sermon on the Mount: **14** *You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15* *Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16* *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

B. John 15:8 (ESV) are Jesus' words at the Last Supper: 8 *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.*

C. Question 1 posed in the Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q: What is the chief end of man? **A:** Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

D. Naturally we might ask, who has been called to glorify God? Answer: All of those whom He's adopted as His own children. Hopefully that means you! And what does it mean to glorify God? "To lovingly revere, extol, and confer honor upon Him, with our words and with our actions." Glorifying God is the true essence of worship. And we certainly worship and glorify God in songs of praise and thanksgiving. But we also can do so in everything we say and do. **Jerry Bridges said:** "The person who fears God seeks to live all of life to the glory of God... All the activities of life should be pursued with the aim of glorifying God." **Billy Graham echoes:** "Our voices, our service, and our abilities are to be employed, primarily, for the glory of God."

E. Bearing fruit glorifies God. There's certainly the fruit of obedience. Obeying God is inherently fruitful even if we don't see the outcome. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the Fruit of the Holy Spirit: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control." Those Spirit-produced virtues glorify God as well because they're evidence of His presence and activity in our lives--plus they minister to God's other children as well. God is glorified when His children love and care and minister to each other. And sharing the Good News and seeing people come to Christ is perhaps the most awesome way we glorify God...

F. Who then can glorify God? We all can! In all of life's stations God can be glorified! Rich, poor, weak, or strong--all can! While sitting at a desk, driving a combine, digging in a coal mine. A fireman can, a doctor or nurse can, a carpenter can, a single mother can, a retiree can. Athletes can glorify God. Artists & musicians too. Truck drivers; waitresses; custodians; salesmen; bank tellers; news anchors; school teachers; barbers engineers; roofers, plumbers, electricians. Even librarians and preachers! I've always loved this quote from Martin Luther King, Jr: "*Whatever your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better. If it falls to your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, like Shakespeare wrote poetry, like Beethoven composed music; sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.'*" (Ever wonder where MLK gleaned those words?)

G. Colossians 3:12-17 & 23-24 (NIV) is my best guess: **12** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. **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. **(The most grand as well as the most mundane things we do, done with love and excellence, with the intent of pleasing God, honoring His name, glorifies Him! Johann Sebastian Bach signed off on his great musical compositions with SDG: Soli Deo Gloria "To God alone be the glory." We should add our SDGs to our work as well. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB) ices the cake: 31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.)**

H. How many of you during this pandemic crisis have been blessed by someone serving you in some thankless job and they did so with a smile, superb attitude, and lots of grace? That's been our experience many times over! My esteem for such folks has done nothing but rise. Let's be sure to ask God to bless them...

I. But Who was the greatest glorifier of God? Who glorified Him in the Highest? His name is no mystery here. Listen again to Jesus' words from the Last Supper found in John 17:1-5 (ESV) **1** When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, **2** since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. **3** And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. **4** I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. **5** And now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.

J. The glory of God is the outward manifestation, the going public, the visible expression of the Holiness, power, character, and magnificence of God. Jesus did that masterfully and perfectly. Remember He said, "When you've seen Me, you've seen the Father." Jesus glorified God in His coming. Jesus glorified God in His living--walking in perfect obedience to His Father, fulfilling all righteousness. Jesus glorified God in His horrific suffering, dying in our place. He glorified God in His resurrection three days after His cross. And He glorified God upon His ascension where He took up His throne once again. God the Father was glorified by God the Son. And we are called to do the same. All glory to His Name forever!

* Close with the song, "*May My Life Be.*"

[**Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**](#)

[**Matthew 5:14-16 \(ESV\)**](#)

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John 15:8 (ESV)

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Westminster Shorter Catechism - Question 1

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A: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

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1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB)

31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

John 17:1-5 (ESV)

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, **2** since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. **3** And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. **4** I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. **5** And now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.

Quote by Jerry Bridges

"The person who fears God seeks to live all of life to the glory of God... All the activities of life should be pursued with the aim of glorifying God."

Quote by Billy Graham

"Our voices, our service, and our abilities are to be employed, primarily, for the glory of God."

Quote by Martin Luther King, Jr

"Whatever your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better. If it falls to your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, like Shakespeare wrote poetry, like Beethoven composed music; sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.'"

Video Clips & Important Articles

"Such A Thing As Glory" - Rich Mullins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_Hfz1x8BqU

What is God's Glory? - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA9xmKCKKnQ>

The Final Act in the Theater of God - Sam Storms (Full Sermon)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSQgdpmQtGY>

We Are Contributors, Not Consumers - John Beeson (The Bee Hive Blog)

<https://www.thebeehive.live/blog/we-are-contributors-not-consumers>

Bonus Stuff

Psalm 115:1 (NLT)

1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name goes all the glory for Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

Psalm 86:6-13 (ESV)

6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. **7** In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me. **8** There is none like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Yours. **9** All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. **10** For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God. **11** Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. **12** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever. **13** For great is Your steadfast love toward me; You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

Isaiah 42:1-9 (NASB)

1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. **2** "He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street. **3** "A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. **4** "He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law." **5** Thus says God the LORD,

Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it, **6** "I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, **7** to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. **8** "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. **9** "Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Quote by Jonathan Edwards

"The end of the creation is that the creation might glorify [God]. Now what is glorifying God, but a rejoicing at that glory he has displayed?"

Quote by John MacArthur

"How does a person glorify God? No question is more practical or more significant. The supreme purpose in life for any man or woman—for anyone who has ever been born into this world—is to glorify God. That is what living is all about. Glorifying God is the end result of the Christian life. Spiritual maturity is simply concentrating and focusing on the person of God until we are caught up in His majesty and His glory."

Quote by R.C. Sproul

"We do not segment our lives, giving some time to God, some to our business or schooling, while keeping parts to ourselves. The idea is to live all of our lives in the presence of God, under the authority of God, and for the honor and glory of God. That is what the Christian life is all about."

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with... The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him." - C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*.

Quote by John Piper

"The apex of glorifying God is enjoying Him with the heart. But this is empty emotionalism where that joy is not awakened and sustained by true views of God for who He really is."

Quote by G. Campbell Morgan

The deepest passion of the heart of Jesus was not the saving of men, but the glory of God; and then the saving of men, because that is for the glory of God.

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"The marvel of heaven and earth, of time and eternity, is the atoning death of Jesus Christ. This is the mystery that brings more glory to God than all creation."

Quote by Ken Sande

"What are you really living for? It's crucial to realize that you either glorify God, or you glorify something or someone else. You're always making something look big."

Quote by Tony Dungy

"Our parents encouraged us to follow our dreams and told us that if we wanted to do something, we could do it. And, they said, if we did it the Lord's way, for the right reasons, we would be successful. Not that we would win every game or be wealthy, but that we would be successful in God's eyes if we did the things that glorify Him."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"The shop, the barn, the scullery, and the smithy become temples when men and women do all to the glory of God! The "divine service" is not a thing of a few hours and a few places, but all life becomes holiness unto the Lord, and every place and thing, as consecrated as the tabernacle and it's golden candlestick."

Quote by Charles Swindoll

"If your life is an example of glorifying God, others won't see your good works and glorify YOU, because they'll know what you are doing is for God's glory."

How Do We Glorify God?

Joel Beeke - Ligonier Ministries

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/how-do-we-glorify-god/>

The goal of piety is to recognize and praise the glory of God—glory that shines in God's attributes, in the structure of the world, and in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The desire to glorify God supersedes even the desire for personal salvation in every truly pious person. We were created that God might be glorified in us, and the regenerate yearn to live out this purpose. Furthermore, God redeems, adopts, and sanctifies His people that His glory would shine in them and deliver them from impious self-seeking. As a result, the pious man's deepest concern is God Himself and the things of God—God's Word, God's authority, God's gospel, God's truth. He yearns to know more of God and to commune more with Him.

But how do we glorify God? Calvin writes: *“God has prescribed for us a way in which He will be glorified by us, namely, piety, which consists in the obedience of His Word. He that exceeds these bounds does not go about to honor God, but rather to dishonor Him.”* Obedience to God’s Word means taking refuge in Christ for forgiveness of our sins, knowing Him through the Scriptures, serving Him with a loving heart, doing good works in gratitude for His goodness, and exercising self-denial to the point of loving our enemies. This response involves total surrender to God Himself, His Word, and His will ([Rom. 11:33–12:2](#)).

Calvin’s motto well sums up the piety with which he lived: *“I offer thee my heart, Lord, promptly and sincerely.”* This is the desire of all who are truly pious. However, this desire can be realized only through communion with Christ and participation in Him, for outside of Christ even the most religious person lives for himself. Only in Christ can the pious live as willing servants of their Lord, faithful soldiers of their Commander, and obedient children of their Father.

- This excerpt is adapted from [Living for God’s Glory: An Introduction to Calvinism](#) by Joel Beeke.