

## Adult Sunday School Outline - New City Catechism Question #6: How can we glorify God?

*We can glorify God by enjoying Him, loving Him, trusting Him, and by obeying His will, commands and law*

This follows from Question #4 *How and why did God create us? God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.*

### A MATTER OF THE HEART: Enjoying, Loving and Trusting Him, resulting in Worship

It is not a matter of checking off rules or offering tokens of appeasement, but rather a heart that is wholly given to God, to enjoying, loving and trusting him for who he is.

Psalm 86:12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

Those who are ruled by the flesh, unregenerate, cannot live out the aim of glorifying God by their deeds and will.

Romans 8:7-8 the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Bible expressions that describe the heart and actions of glorifying God:

'pleasing God'

'honoring God'

'praising God'

Glorifying God does not add to his glory, but draws us and others near to Him.

"In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him...praise completes enjoyment - CS Lewis<sup>1</sup>

"God seeks our praise not because he won't be complete until he gets it, rather he is seeking our praise because we won't be happy until we give it." – John Piper

**Enjoying Him** (seeing and savoring his worthiness, glory and character). To find our joy in Him: Psalm 16:11, Psalm 34:8, Psalm 34:7

All enjoyment spontaneously spills over into praise (CS Lewis). And this is what happens when we enjoy God – we worship him and he draws near to us in our glorifying Him.

**Loving Him** (stirring up our hearts to worship and adore him, treasuring Him for who He is (Father, Son, and Spirit) with our whole being. This expressed in the great commandment (Deuteronomy 6:5) and Deuteronomy 10:12. This love is planted in us and expressed as we believe in Christ – "we love him because he first loved us".

**Trusting Him** (believing in Him, forsaking trust in our own resources and merits) and looking to Him as our provider of everything.

John 6:29: This is the work of God, that you believe in Him who he has sent.

Hebrews 11:6: Without faith it is impossible to please him.

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<sup>1</sup> Sam Storms, quoting C.S.Lewis. Christian Hedonism [For the Fame of God's Name]. Crossway 2010.

## JESUS IS HIMSELF THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF HOW ONE SHOULD GLORIFY GOD

We fall short of the glory of God in every way, but Jesus, our righteous substitute, has glorified the Father in every way on our behalf. The Father pronounced his satisfaction on Christ's life through the resurrection (John 12:27, Romans 1) and now Jesus is ascribed glory and honor and power throughout all eternity.

Jesus always did what pleased the Father (John 8:29), ultimately giving his life to glorify his Father by redeeming a people for God. He is the *reason* and the *pattern* of living for God's glory.

## OUR WORSHIP EXPRESSES ITSELF IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM

Romans 12:1 present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship

Our worship is not self-defined – it's Christ defined. Recall how at times Jesus commanded those who he had healed to keep silent. This illustrates that we must subject our glorification of God to his Word.

Psalms 119 – countless examples of how God's law, commands, precepts, words give life to those who keep it

John 15:8, 1 John 5:17 Our relationship with Christ produces the fruit of "keeping his commands"

## HOW IS OUR OBEDIENCE EXPRESSED?

Romans 7:6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Living out the fruit of the Spirit through faith (Galatians 5:22)

God's commandments are written on our hearts (Hebrews 8:10)

- **In our love for Christ's body.**
  - o The church is the way God manifests Christ's glory (Ephesians 3:21)
  - o If you love me, keep my commandments. This is my commandment, that you love one another (John 15). See also 1 Peter 4:8-11
  - o Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)
- **In our thanksgiving and praise** (Hebrews 13:15 - a sacrifice of praise to God - and many other references)
- **In our proclamation of the gospel to the world** (Psalm 86:9, 105:1, Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Peter 3:15) Paul was happy that Christ was preached even if it was being done in rivalry towards him.
- **In our devotion to Christ** – keep yourselves in the love of God/love not the world, growing in Christ-likeness. Be diligent to confirm your calling and election (2 Peter 1:10)
- **In our pursuit of holiness** – be holy, as God is holy. We live as those who know our calling to glorify him.
  - o Philippians 1: 10&11, 1 Peter 1:16
- **In our love to our neighbors** – the widow and the orphan, not showing partiality (James)
  - o 1 Peter 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
- **In our suffering & cross-bearing** – 1 Peter 1:7, 2: 19, 3:13, 4:16
- **In our death**
  - John 11:4 Lazarus' illness and death was for the glory of God
  - John 21:19 - by what kind of death (Peter) was to glorify God
  - Paul poured out as a drink offering
- **God will be glorified in our resurrection and vindication at his coming**

Romans 11:36: From him and through him and to him are all things: to him be glory forever. Amen.