

How to Glorify God, Part 1

Psalm 19:1 *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”*

The first question in the Westminster Shorter Catechism is: *“What is the chief end of man?”* The answer is: *“The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”* The second question is: *“What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?”* The answer is: *“The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.”* Today, we will organize our exploration under two heads.

I. What Does It Mean To Glorify God?

II. Why We Should Glorify God?

I. What Does It Mean To Glorify God?

A. The concept of glory is not easy to define.

1. In the Old Testament the concept of glory is expressed in a Hebrew word **kabowd**. When it is used in reference to people the word speaks of the position, power, and influence of a person.

Genesis 45:13 *“And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.”*

In connection with God it speaks of the manifestation of God's greatness. When we speak of the revelation of the majesty and wonder of all God is we speak of His glory.

2. In the New Testament the word **doxa** is used. This Greek word speaks of the value someone puts on someone else.

B. So then, Glory is the manifestation of the wonder, majesty, and perfections of all that God is and what He did and does.

C. There appears to be several kinds of glory the true and living God possesses.

1. First, there is a glory which has a visible, physical manifestation.

2 Chronicles 7:1-2 *“When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the LORD’S house.”*

This is the same glory that appeared in the Tabernacle in the wilderness. The Jews called this the **Shekinah** glory. This is also the glory that will light the New Jerusalem as described in

Revelation 21:22-23 *“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.”*

2. Second, there is a glory that is inherent in His being. This is glory that is His simply because He is God. This glory cannot be separated from Him. This is the glory that John spoke of in **John 1:14**.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

3. Third there is glory that God can lay aside for a while. Jesus speaks of this glory in **John 17:5**.

“And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

When we read of our Lord's **kenosis** in **Philippians 2**, it was this glory that He set aside.

4. Finally, there is a glory that we who belong to the Lord Jesus will someday share with Him. Paul put it this way.

Romans 8:16-18 *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For, I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

D. If Glory is all of these things, how do we glorify God in our lives? In essence, when we glorify God, we put the wonders of God's being and works on display for all to see.

II. Why We Should Glorify God?

A. The next question which naturally follows is: *“Why Should We Glorify God?”* The Bible gives several reasons why we should give glory to God. First, we should glorify God because He deserves it. This is the supreme reason why we should glorify God.

Revelation 4:11 *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”*

Do we recognize this truth? Gilbert Tennent wrote in one of his sermons, that we should glorify God, regardless of the results of that process. We should glorify God simply because He deserves the glory.

B. Second, we should glorify God because it is what we were created to do. All of Creation naturally brings glory to God. It shows forth His wonders, wisdom, and power.

Romans 1:18-20 *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”*

Of all of God's creation, it is mankind alone who can choose whether or not he will glorify God. Humankind alone among all that God has made may, and indeed will, turn his back on God.

C. Third, we need to glorify God because the mark that sets us apart as believers is that we desire to glorify God. Look at **Romans 1**. What is the cardinal sin of those who are under the just condemnation of God? **Romans 1:21** tells us.

“Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

The other side of the coin is found in **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**.

“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, in order that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

D. Although this does not complete all of the reasons given in Scripture, let me conclude today with one more reason. We should glorify God because someday the whole world will Glorify Him. **[1]** In the midst of the rebellion of Israel at Kadesh Barnea our LORD made a statement to Moses.

Numbers 14:20-21 *“Then the LORD said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.”*

[2] Habakkuk comforted himself with this same reality.

Habakkuk 2:14 *“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”*

[3] **Philippians 2:9-11** *“Therefore God also has highly exalted [the Lord Jesus Christ] and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

God will be glorified. The question is, will He be glorified through us or in spite of us? In Numbers the LORD told Moses that in spite of the rebellion of the people, He would be glorified.

The question is will you and I glorify God now? We will surely glorify God in that day?

Help us, Lord, to glorify You for You are worthy of glory and honor and praise.

Hymn #394 *In My Life Lord Be Glorified*