

Calvin's God-Exalting Piety

based on *Living for God's Glory: an Introduction to Calvinism* Joel Beeke (Reformation Trust, 2008)

We are God's: let us therefore live for Him and die for Him.

We are God's: let His wisdom and will therefore rule all our actions.

We are God's: let all the parts of our life accordingly strive toward Him as our only lawful goal.

(John Calvin, *Institutes*, 3.7.1)

1. How did John Calvin understand the term "piety"?
2. Piety has the glory of God for its ultimate goal. How does a person glorify God?
 - a. For Calvin, piety means obeying God's Word. This glorifies God. (Romans 11:33-12:2)
 - b. Calvin's personal motto sums up the piety that shaped his life
"I offer thee my heart, Lord, promptly and sincerely"
 - c. Can we say the Reformation brought a Reform in piety as well as theology?
3. What is the soil out of which piety grows?
 - a. John 6:51; Eph. 5:32; Eph 3:16-19 Our union with Christ by Spirit-produced faith
 - b. The pious live by what they find in Christ rather than by what they find in themselves!
4. What is the relationship between J=imputed purity, S=actual purity
 - a. Piety and justification?
J. gives our consciences peaceful rest (Romans 5:1) My Piety does not make me justified
 - b. Piety and sanctification?
Saved to serve, to worship in holiness (Ephesians 2:8-10). Separating Justification from sanctification is "to tear Christ in pieces." My piety proves God's Spirit is in me.
5. What role does the Church play in fostering piety? Hebrews 10:23-25
 - a. * We don't graduate from the church until we die. The Church is the 'nursery of piety'
 - b. Is piety a personal activity? Corporate activity? Explain.
 - c. Are you less pious the more you know? Is knowledge of Bible doctrine and much study always dangerous? Would we better off to be 'pious' by reading the Psalms, saying the Lord's Prayer, etc.? (consider Titus 1:1-2; 1 Timothy 6:3-6)
6. How does the Lord's Supper help us grow in piety?
The Lord's Supper promotes piety of grace received and gratitude given.
7. How did Calvin set an example of true Christian piety?
 - a. Genevan Psalter
 - b. Calvin's *Institutes of Christian Theology*, 3.6-10, summarizes pious Christian life as...
 - (1) Prayer
 - (2) Repentance
 - (3) Self-Denial and cross-bearing
 - (4) The present and future life. Longing for heaven, living in the present. 2 Peter 3:10-11
 - (5) Obedience.