

“To Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever”

Psalm 86:11-12

Sermon Prepared for WellSpring Church

Introduction

Almost all of us have heard it. I was stunned recently to meet someone who did not know the Westminster Shorter Catechism! But what does he answer to the first question of the WSC mean? What does it mean to glorify God? To Enjoy Him?

Big Idea: Anything other than an active, intentional, full life determination to live for God’s glory is an inferior and life wasting goal.

What is “End”

Purpose

A bridge’s end is to allow people and goods to get from one side to another

A telescope’s end is to bring things that are very far away into sight

Illustration of the Muscle Builder who only used his muscles to show off his muscles.

Even art has a purpose—to make a statement about reality and the God of reality—in one way or another.

Inferior ends

House building is the end

masons, diggers, carpenters, roofers, painters, electricians—all have an end (a purpose) but none of them are the chief end of the house-builder.

Schools are to have an end

It isn’t to teach a particular subject

It isn’t to keep kids occupied during the day—child care

It isn’t to teach morals and manners and discipline

It is to provide an education (not mere vacation, Liberal Arts, rounded first)

Superior, ultimate end. To Glorify God and to Enjoy him forever.

I Cor. 10:31

Colossians 3:17

What is Glorify

Literally both Hebrew and Greek: Add weight

What it is not—

it is not feeding the pride or arrogance or need of God to be appreciated, approved, accepted.

Nor is it merely singing praise and worship music, or saying praise words —“glorify God church!”

What it is

To enhance one’s reputation

proclaim one’s character

Praise one’s excellence

Tom Aschol President of Founders' Ministries writes:

The Old Testament word for “glory” comes from the Hebrew word for weight, or heaviness. The idea behind it suggests substance and importance. For example, when Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers in Egypt, he instructed them, “So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here.” In other words, he wanted his greatness, his privileged position and exalted status and power, to be reported to Jacob.

In the New Testament, the word “glory” conveys the same idea. A man's glory is his good reputation. It is that about him which is praiseworthy.

So when the Bible speaks of the glory of God it is referring to His worth and honor and greatness. Or, when this word is used of God, we could say that His majesty or supremacy is in view.

The whole article can be found here:

HYPERLINK "http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/journal/fj56/editorial.html" <http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/journal/fj56/editorial.html>

The purpose of all creation is to shine a light on the greatness and wonder and excellence of God.

Psalm 19:1

Rom 11:33-36

Calvin “creation is the theater of God's glory” I might add and we are the actors on that stage.

How to glorify God

We glorify God when we realize that this is foundational—it is the very purpose for which we exist. Any other reason for living is secondary (Robt. E. Lee wanted military glory, then became a Christian—glory of God) My goal as a pastor. It isn't to build a large church—it is to teach people how to glorify God—so that God is glorified.

We glorify God by doing—glorifying is active not passive. We may, and ought to glorify God by knowing and doing his will.

What is the will of God?

“What is sin? Anything in thought word or deed that is contrary to the will of God.”

But what is that will?

Broadly speaking Ten Commandments

John MacArthur:

Saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9)

Spirit-filled (Ephesians 5:17-18)

Sanctified (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)

Submissive (1 Peter 2:13-15)

Suffering (Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12)

See the Book, Found: God's Will by John MacArthur

Available at CVBBS.com

http://www.cvbbs.com/inventory.php?target=indiv&search_back=keywords%3Dfound+god%5C%27s+will%26searchstyle%3Dall%26page%3D1%26title_keyword%3D%26isbn_keyword%3D%26publisher_keyword%3D%26author_keyword%3D%26sort_by%3D&bookid=921

One more that is missing—Praising and rejoicing I Thess. 5:17-18

What is the wrong approach to the will of God—Vocation, location, --anything that doesn't ask will this action glorify God, will this action take away from my enjoyment of God as God.

It is more than doing, it is also knowing—I cannot do what God requires unless I know what God requires. This is why we can never stop this discussion with the first Question of the WSC

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

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

Q. 2. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. 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.

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

But it is never less than knowing. A heart that is not consumed by the word of God, and time with God is not and cannot be glorifying to him. God calls disobedience “Despising his word—hating his word”

Child to father

obedient, but doesn't listen

obedient but doesn't sit with him

The glorifying of God is active

We glorify God intentionally. God is glorified by making his glory the chief motive of every action.

This is an incredible quest and a nearly impossible suggestion. We are driven and motivated by so many things that making a conscious decision to glorify God in everything means that I need to become more conscious of what I do, and even to ask myself. We said it is active, it is also intentional

Why am I doing this?

Does this glorify God?

Really and truly whose reputation are we most interested in promoting?

So the start of each day is –How do I glorify You oh Lord?

Begin to ask How can I enhance God's Reputation to myself and others

When I drive

In this conversation

when I turn on the TV, Computer, DVD, ipod

When I dress

when I get out my credit card or money

how I treat others

John Hall uses the example of one who is traveling to New Orleans from Boston—he does many things on the journey, but nothing to detract him from his chief purpose of getting to the end of his journey. The Chief End of Man, An Exposition on the First Answer of the Shorter Catechism

Illustration from Lonesome Dove: Call takes Gus back to Lonesome Dove—nothing stopped him—he was honoring his dead friend. Doing what his friend asked despite all hardships and odds.

We glorify God by the holiness of our lives—there ought to be something noticeably different in our lives, they ought to give the aroma of Christ, the scent of holiness. Not a priggishness or conceitedness, not a better than you attitude, but really the love for God’s reputation that would make me not want to do anything that be cause it to be sullied. Attached to this is joy in service. Joy in God’s service glorifies him.

Holiness as difference, peculiarity

Barna Polls—no difference between Christians and non Christians—except profanity.

I Peter 2:9

They had been with Jesus

Let your light so shine

Faith glorifies God. Trust. Dependence. Acquiescence to his providence.

Faith versus Fear, Courage versus Discouragement

Isaiah 43:1-7

Connect closely to this is our submission of our entire lives to Him.

Ephesians 5 helps here

love = sacrifice

submit = honor, respect, reverence

God is glorified by our spreading the knowledge of Him

God is glorified by our receiving the blessings of life as from Him, and by our giving the praise of all that we, or others, accomplish that is useful and right—but there is a subtle danger here. it is the danger of the health and wealth people...

But what would it be to *only* glorify God and not have the enjoyment of it? This would be a dangerous and soul-stifling, god-despising service. If I am not enjoying God as my chief pleasure then I am an idolater

How often has the creature stolen the heart from its lawful Sovereign! That heart that was once so simply and so supremely the Lord’s, those affections that clung to Him with such purity and power of grasp, have now been transferred to another and an inferior object; the piece of clay that God had given but to deepen the obligation, and heighten the soul’s love to Himself, has been molded into an idol, before which the heart pours its daily incense. The flower that He has caused to spring forth but to endear His own beauty, and make His own name more fragrant, has supplanted the “Rose of Sharon” in the bosom. Is it thus that we abuse our mercies? Is it thus that we convert our blessings into poisons, that we allow the things that were sent to endear the heart of our God, and to make the cross, through which they came, more precious, to allure our affections from their holy and blessed center? Fools that we to love the creature more than the Creator! (Octavious Winslow)

First, I could approach the intentional and active whole-life pursuit of glorifying God as a duty to be fulfilled—it is a duty, God commands it. However, if I am only praising, thanking, trusting, telling out of duty then I diminish God—if am I not

delighting in him

It's my job—a pastor doing hospital visitation does not honor the patient by saying this.

It's my duty—serving my wife out of duty does not honor her.

it's the requirement—providing for my family

It's my delight, my joy, my breath,

Even my Christian life and service can be idolatry if I am not enjoying God or seeking God's glory (My Glory)

Preaching can be idolatry

Playing in a worship band can be idolatry

Teaching can be idolatry nursery working

Man to wife—I love you because of the physical pleasures and intimacy we enjoy together.

Love your wife, but love her less than the God who gave her to you. Enjoy your wealth, but far less than the God who placed it in your hand. Delight yourself in your children, but not more than you delight in the Lord who entrusted them to your care. Work hard to develop huge, glorious thoughts of God—thoughts that are commensurate with the revelation of His glory in Jesus Christ. Work hard to see what is there. And be stunned by it. Be overwhelmed by the greatness and grace of the God who did not spare His own Son but has delivered Him up for you and has promised that with Him, He will also give to you everything you need. Then love and delight yourself in Him supremely. (Tom Aschol)

Idolatry is loving and wanting the stuff God gives more than wanting and loving the God who gives stuff.

What is Enjoy? It is to receive joy and happiness from God himself. It is to take pleasure in God himself—alone. Higher than his gifts.

God so formed human nature, as to unite man's greatest happiness with his natural duty; so that to be supremely blessed, it was necessary that man should be perfectly faithful.

God created us to be happy—and happiness comes from faithfulness, that is, from glorifying God.

Conclusion. Last week I encouraged you to make your growth in the things of God an intention of your life—this week I am telling you that the reason you exist is this---

This was Christ's goal

Christ is in You, He will work this in you.

This is the glory of the cross—Roman 3:23 fall short of the glory of God—But with Christ you may now live to the glory of God!

PAGE

PAGE 1