

The Ultimate Ambition: The Glory of God

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What is the glory of God? In this brief article, I will propose five essential principles related to the glory of God. Believers must live for God's glory and even the most mundane activities in a person's life can result in the glory of God. So, if the believer's ultimate ambition is the glory of God, what does this mean and in what does this consist? This article serves to provide some practical helps.

1. Being Joyful in God.

All Christians must rejoice! God commands believers everywhere to live lives of exuberant joy! A Christian should mark himself out from the culture which surrounds him by his steadfast, immovable, and passionate joy. But this joy does not subsist in himself or in his earthly things. Rather, it rests totally and supremely in God Himself. The believer can have joy in God because true Christian joy can be defined as a settled certainty that God is in control. If this is the case — and it always is — then the Christian can be joyful in God.

2. Magnifying God in Christ.

To magnify means to enlarge and to exalt means to lift something up. For the Christian to magnify God in Christ means to make God look great in and through the person of Christ. The Christian does this by living in such a way that he imitates Christ and lives a life of love, just as Christ loved His people and gave Himself up for them. A Christian must endeavor to conform more to the perfect image of Christ. A Christian must aggressively pursue holiness just as Christ did. A Christian must passionately reject sin and resist temptation with the Word of God just as Christ wielded the sword of the Word when tempted. A Christian prays to be more like God in Christ. A person longs for the fullness of the glory of Christ to dwell with Him in heaven. Till then, however, a true child of God zealously pursues Christ not *with* his life but *as* his life.

3. Proclaiming Christ in Truth.

A Christian glorifies God by telling of God's greatness. The Bible beckons believers to proclaim His mighty deeds from day to day. God's salvation should explode in the believer's heart and should flow from his lips frequently. To proclaim Christ means that one loves Christ. To proclaim Christ means that one tells the truth to others. Christ is the truth and His Word is the truth. Jesus proclaimed about Himself that He Himself is *the* Truth. The loving message that all must hear is the truthful message and every child of God has received the command from God to proclaim it to every creature! To glorify God, then, includes proclaiming Him!

4. Warning Sinners with Love.

God promises that His glory will be manifest in the entire earth. He will make a great Name for Himself. All the nations will come and see His greatness and His power and bow the knee before His Sovereignty. To glorify God as a Christian, then, means that sinners must be warned of imminent danger because of their sin and the just and severe penalty that it deserves. To warn sinners is to love them and care for their souls. To glorify God is to proclaim Christ as the sufficient Savior, to magnify God's holiness as pure, glorious, and supreme, to condemn humans as vile, wretched, sinful and spiritually-dead, and to proclaim the free gift of God's salvation available to sinners who repent and turn from sin, trust in Christ alone through faith, and follow Him in life.

5. Thinking Rightly About God.

Idolatry does not consist only of a wooden carving that a person bows down before in homage. Idolatry can also include thinking *wrongly* about the one true God. One may think he worships the one, true God while in fact he has created an idol in his own heart since his perspective is not biblically informed. This highlights the importance of the child of God informing his heart and mind with God's truth so that he thinks rightly about God, His character, His gospel, His plan, and His glory. To think rightly about God is to glorify God. To meditate upon God is to make God large on a person's heart and mind. This glorifies God. This, then, should drive the child of God into the Word of God, to look upon the Son of God, to live a life of holiness before God. And this glorifies God.