

# Some Elements Involved in Glorifying God

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**Glorifying God consists of — but is not limited to — the following four qualities.**

## **1. Appreciation**

Appreciating God entails having God-centered thoughts. This includes the notion that the regenerated person appreciates the magnificence and majesty of God revealed in the propitiatory death of Jesus Christ in the place of His own. The sinner marvels at this mystery. The Christian makes it his aim to declare the works of the Lord with the intended result that all creation would see, savor, and treasure the wonder and beauty of God above everything else.

## **2. Adoration**

Adoring God consists of having God-worthy thoughts. To glorify God rightly is to adore Him rightly by recognizing who He is, what He has done, and the sacrifice it cost Him to redeem sinful humanity. Glorifying God is adoring God for who He is. Adoring God is not only thanking him but affirming His person, character, works, and deeds. Everything from salvation to damnation, from election to reprobation, from love to wrath, from holiness to forgiveness, from righteousness to compassion all rightly deserves worthy and worshipful thoughts of God. Adoring Him at all times while worthily and rightly worshipping Him is an element of glorifying God.

## **3. Affection**

Having affections for God means that God is supremely satisfying. God is the one who sufficiently pleases, He eternally gladdens, and He supremely deserves the heartfelt affections of His creatures. Glorifying God includes the believer's passionate pursuit of the supreme and satisfying Savior. When the saved soul tastes and sees that God is good and eternally delightful, his heart stirs within him with affectionate love for Him resulting in a driving desire to obey Him and an increasing hatred of sinning against Him. This all glorifies God because God is the sole satisfaction for the saved sinner.

## **4. Subjection**

Submitting to God necessitates the truth that God is worthy of my obedience and, furthermore, my joy comes in obeying him. The sinner who subjects himself to the Law of Christ is one who rightly understands the unrivaled sovereignty of God and the blessed privilege granted to sinners to obey, follow, and please Him. The regenerated sinner who submits to the Word of God pleases God and gladdens His heart as a son obeys and thus brings joy to his father.

These four elements are adapted from Thomas Watson's *A Body of Divinity* (in Joel Beeke, *Taking Hold of Prayer*, 214).