

## Seeking the Glory of God

### Introduction

1. Jesus rebuked the Jewish leaders for seeking glory from each other instead of God – **John 5:44; 12:42-43** – this led to their ultimate rejection of Him because they loved the glory of men.
2. If we live for the glory of men, we will inevitably wind up rejecting God.
3. What does seeking the glory of God look like?
  - I. In My Life
    - A. The pride of life tempts us all – **1 John 2:16** – “the vainglory of life” (ASV)
      - a. Pride – *alazoneia* – “claiming in word or action to be more important or remarkable than is true arrogance, pretension (JA 4.16); in regard to one’s possessions false pride, conceit, boasting (1J 2.16)” (ALGNT)
      - b. Life – *bios* – “(1) of earthly life in its daily functions, such as preoccupation with food, clothing, and shelter (2T 2.4); (2) of the means of subsistence property, goods, one’s living (1J 3.17)” (ALGNT)
        - i. NOT – *zōē* – what is used for spiritual life, eternal life.
      - c. More important than what is true as it pertains to earthly life – **(v. 17)** – is passing away, is ultimately nothing.
      - d. **“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” (Luke 12:15)**
        - i. **“life”** – *zōē* – **Luke 12:20-21** – soul, whose will those THINGS be, rich toward God.
        - ii. Hence, **“vainglory,”** to estimate self highly based upon THINGS which are not of self – when you go on, they do not.
      - e. Your **“life”** (*zōē*) is what goes on – estimation of that life consists in relation to God – **“the Author of life” (Acts 3:15,** of Jesus).
        - i. **1 John 1:1-4** – shows the fundamental substance of that life.
        - ii. **John 14:6; Colossians 3:4** – Christ is the life, and if we have life then it is because we have Him.
        - iii. Glory of this life is not the vainglory of **1 John 2:16**, but it is the glory of **Galatians 2:20; 6:14-15**.
          1. The way Paul viewed all he had done by faithful obedience in Christ – **1 Corinthians 15:10**
        - iv. Recognizing this dramatically transforms how we think about, and how we live this earthly life.
      - B. This true, biblical worldview takes away grounds for boasting, but also dramatically redirects my seeking toward what is truly substantive, God’s will (**cf.**

**1 John 2:17**). This leaves us with only God to give glory to – **“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”**  
**(Romans 11:36)**

- a. Not righteousness to be seen by men, but God – **Matthew 6:1, 4, 5-6** – **“practicing your righteousness” (v. 1, NASB)**
- b. Not net-worth, but relationship with God – **Luke 12:15, 21** – spiritual stock.
- c. Not eyeservice, but in fear of God – **Colossians 3:22-25** – integrity.
- d. Not swaying with the judgment of the ungodly – **1 Peter 4:3-4, 14, 16** – give glory to God by loyalty to Him, and thanksgiving for the privilege.

## II. In My Home

- A. Building and nurturing a home comes with endless decisions. If we are not clear on our intentions in this process these decisions will be dramatically shaped for the worse.
  - a. What led me to choosing my spouse? What am I looking for in a spouse?
  - b. Why do I seek marriage? Why did I get married?
  - c. Why do I want kids? Why did I have kids?
  - d. What do I want for my kids?
  - e. All these questions and more are receiving answers from society and culture daily – news, social media, entertainment, etc.
  - f. If our intentions are not clearly directed toward the glory of God in building and nurturing a home, then our answers to these questions and corresponding actions will be tainted with worldliness.
- B. **Romans 12:2** – our view of a good, and successful marriage, and good children should be evaluated by God’s standard.
  - a. Conformed to the world – entertainment, influencers on social media, peers/acquaintances on social media, self-help/pop-psychology books/videos/podcasts/etc., other families not seeking God’s glory, etc.
  - b. Transformed – **Proverbs 24:3-4** – a home that seeks the glory of God.
    - i. What wisdom and knowledge? – **Proverbs 1:7** – the fear of the Lord.
    - ii. Homes built to God’s glory are filled with treasures in every room.
- C. Marriages with spouses who aren’t looking for recognition from the world, but seeking God’s glory:
  - a. **1 Peter 3:1-7** – not vain outward beauty, or worldly success; not superficial manhood, and harsh leadership.
  - b. **Ephesians 5:22-25, 28-29, 33** – not role reversals, or shame for God’s ways, but full embrace of God’s plan.

- D. Parents making God and His will the focus – **Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 24-25; Joshua 24:15** – not school, future career, sports, recreation, etc.
  - E. Children finding value in their role in the home – **Psalms 127:3-5** – realizing family matters are more important than time with friends, having fun, etc.
    - a. Parents make them feel needed – chores, expectations, etc.
    - b. Children, find joy in contributing to the home.
- III. In the Church
- A. It is ironic that churches exist that seek the glory of men, but it is far from uncommon.
    - a. **Revelation 3:1** – Sardis had a **“name”** that they were alive – i.e. they had a reputation.
    - b. Some churches merely seek the reputation instead of the real thing.
  - B. The church is meant for the glory of God – **Ephesians 3:20-21**
    - a. This is true universally but finds practical significance on the local level.
    - b. Each local church is autonomous by design to ensure they all have the ability to seek the glory of God.
  - C. Not the physical, but the spiritual – **John 6:26-27; Acts 3:6**
    - a. Not a reputation among the community for physical aid, social outreach, political stance, etc.
      - i. Such may attract crowds, and garner a **“name that you are alive,”** but carries no true spiritual weight.
      - b. Rather, God glorifying activity in the truth.
  - D. Not “compassionate love” without holiness – **1 Corinthians 5:1-2**
  - E. Not “holiness” without compassionate love – **2 Corinthians 2:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14**
  - F. Sound doctrine – **Titus 1:9-11; 2:1-15**
    - a. Not pursuing a love and humility foreign to scripture that is praised by others, but tolerant of doctrines of demons.
    - b. Not pursuing “doctrinal integrity” that is praised by others, but that is devoid of application, including the patience and willingness to correct the erring, and teach the naïve and immature.
  - G. Not seeking numbers, but seeking souls – **Matthew 28:18-20** – **“teaching them...”**

### Conclusion

1. We must make sure that it is truly the glory of God that we are seeking – in our lives, our homes, and the church.
2. If what we are seeking is the glory of men, we will be guilty of rejecting God.