

God Glorified in Us

In a previous series ("Guided Unto Glory", from Ps. 73:24), we looked at the future glory that will be revealed in us, at Christ's coming, and in his eternal kingdom. This lesson will concentrate on how we can glorify God here in this life.

2 Thess. 1:12 – "That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

The "ye in him" part refers to our future glorification, when we will be like him (1 Jn. 3:2), shining forth like the sun in the kingdom of our Father (Mt. 13:43). But the first part says that God will be glorified in us – not just in the future kingdom, but now in this life. Our first concern as believers should not be self-satisfaction, but to glorify God our Savior.

How can we glorify God in this life?

1. In attitudes

a. By maintaining physical, mental, and spiritual purity

1 Cor. 6:19-20 – "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

b. By knowing God, and living by what he delights in, instead of human wisdom, power, and wealth.

Jer. 9:23-24 – "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth, and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." (1 Cor. 1:31, 2 Cor. 10:17)

c. By recognizing that whatever wisdom, power, wealth, gifts, and abilities we have come from God.

1 P. 4:11 – "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

d. By faithful endurance through trials, persecutions, and tribulations

1 P. 1:7 – "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

1 P. 4:14 – "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified."

e. By a teachable and submissive attitude in the fear of God

Ps. 86:11-12 – "Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore."

2. By vocal confession, worship, and prayer

a. By public declaration or testimony

Ps. 105:1-3 – "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD."

Ps. 145:11-12 – “They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of man his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.”

b. By joyful song and worship

Ps. 66:1-2 – “Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.”

Ps. 86:9 – “All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O LORD; and shall glorify thy name.”

Ps. 96:7-9 – “Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.”

c. By looking to God in prayer for deliverance or help

Ps. 50:15 – “And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.”

d. By rejoicing in faith and confidence in God

Ps. 64:10 – “The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.”

3. By actions

a. By good works and fruitfulness

Mt. 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Jn. 15:8 – “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

b. By agreement and cooperation in the church

Rom. 15:6 – “That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Bickering, backbiting, and ungodly living does not glorify God.

c. By generosity in giving

2 Cor. 9:12-13 – “For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God: Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men”

d. By man and wife living together in loving, peaceful, joyous, faithful, and holy union

God created man and woman to be one, companions in life, loving and encouraging and strengthening one another through good times and bad. When two people can defy the world’s expectations of marriage and have a godly union that doesn’t dissolve in divorce, it glorifies God. He is also glorified in the production of “godly seed” (Mal. 2:15).

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