

The Glory of God

The Westminster Confession declares that the, "Chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." This dual concept is seen in Psalm 16:8-9, "I have set the Lord always before me therefore my heart is glad." The Glory of God is a field of study that will enlarge our understanding of who God is and how we are to relate to Him.

I. Definition and Description of Glory of God

A. Lexical Consideration

1. Old Testament

a. *Kabod*

This is used to represent God's presence and illumination at His appearing (Ex. 16:7, 10; 33:18; Duet. 5:24; Isa. 40:5), and of His presence in the sanctuary (Ex. 40:34; 1 Kgs. 8:10; Ps. 26:8. When God's presence is gone it is spoken of in 1 Sam. 4:21, "The glory of the Lord has departed "*kabod*." It can also mean "heavy." God is a heavy-weight.

b. Shekinah

The term Shekinah, glory of God, is often used in sermons, however it is not technically a form of glory, but a way of signifying the presence of God.

(1) Definition

The term is used for the idea of dwelling. The Jews did not like to refer to God directly so they would use circumlocution to signify God's presence. The root of the term means "to dwell". The noun form is used to refer to a dwelling place. Genesis 9:27 reveals that God has promised to dwell with man. In Exodus 13:21ff, God dwelled and revealed His glory-cloud which represented His protective presence. The term for tabernacle, "dwelling," is built off the Hebrew root for dwelling and the term that is often used for Shekinah in the Jewish literature.

(2) Description

The dwelling of God with His people is seen in the incarnation (Col. 1:19; 2:9), and in the transfiguration. The glory of the Lord rests on those in Christ (Rom. 9:23; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:11, 27). Jesus is described as the “Lord of Glory” (1 Cor. 2:8; Jas. 2:1). The glory of Christ is seen in His resurrection (Rom. 6:4).

Paul was blinded by the glory of the brightness of the Lord (Acts 9:3-9; 22:6-11; 26:12-18). Hebrews 1:3 speaks of the Christ reflecting the glory of God.

The Holy Spirit is also represented as the Shekinah or dwelling of God. The Spirit descended and remained on Jesus (Jo. 1:33). At Pentecost, the Spirit came down and rested on the 120 disciples. Also there appeared to them tongues of fire “resting” on them—the presence of God dwelling on the people of God.

2. New Testament

a. *doxa*

To think, hold an opinion, magnify, extol, praise, to clothe with splendor; this is the normal term used to refer to God and the glory due Him.

- (1) Acts 7:2—God of Glory
- (2) Ephesians 1:17—Father of Glory
- (3) Romans 15:6
- (4) 1 Peter 2:12
- (5) 1 Thessalonians 2:6—Paul did not seek glory from man.
- (6) 1 Thessalonians 2:19—Paul looked for glory to be given him from Christ.

b. *timh*

To worship, esteem, honor value; not used often to refer to God and His honor or glory as seen through the LXX. In the Old Testament *timh* is used for *kabod* and the idea of giving honor to parents (Ex. 20:12). In the New Testament, *timh* is often used to convey the idea of dignity of office or position.

- (1) Psalm 8:3-8—Man’s position of honor in creation
- (2) Romans 13:7
- (3) 1 Peter 2:17
- (4) 1 Timothy 6:1

(5) 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16

B. Theological Considerations

1. God's Glory is Intrinsic to His Nature

- a. Acts 7: 2—He is the God of glory
- b. Ephesians 1:17—Father of Glory
- c. Isaiah 6: 3—The whole earth is full of His glory
- d. Psalm 24:7-10—He is the King of Glory
- e. Isaiah 2:10, 19, 21—Glory of His majesty

2. God's Glory is a Manifestation of His Attributes

- a. John 1:14—Grace and truth
- b. Exodus 33:19ff—God's Glory is manifested in His essence and attributes.

Then Moses said, "I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!"

And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"

Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

(33:11 ?? face to face=directly or indirect dreams visions)

- c. 1 Chronicles 16:24-27—"Declare His glory....Glory and honor are in His presence"
- d. 1 Chronicles 29:10-13
So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed art Thou, O LORD God of Israel our father,

forever and ever. Thine, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone. Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name."

- e. Isaiah 48:11—God can not give up His glory.
- f. John 11:39-40—God's power displays His glory.
- g. John 17:22-24—That they may see the glory of God
"And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world."
- h. Revelation 21:23—Heaven is made light by glory of God.

C. Anthropological Considerations

God's glory is magnified by God's creatures and creation. God's Glory is magnified in the estimation of men not adding to the essence of God.

1. Creation

- a. Psalm 19:1—"Creation declares the glory of God."
- b. Romans 1:20-23—Men pervert the glory of God
- c. Isaiah 43:20—The beasts will honor God.

2. Creatures

- a. Philippians 1:20—That Christ may be magnified
- b. 1 Chronicles 16:24-29—Give glory to God; testifying to the glory of God.

- c. 1 Corinthians 6:20—"Glorify God in your bodies"
- d. 1 Timothy 1:17—"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."
- e. 1 Timothy 6 :16
- f. Jude :24—Glory and joy
- g. Psalm 86:11-12
Teach me Thy way, O LORD; I will walk in Thy truth; Unite my heart to fear Thy name. I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Thy name forever.
- h. Psalm 29:1-2—"Give unto the Lord glory"
- i. Luke 2:13-14—"Angels gave glory to God in the highest."

II. Desire and Demand to Give God Glory

A. God Gives us our Being

- 1. Psalm 100—It is He that has made us.
- 2. Romans 11:36—From Him and through Him are all things. To Him be glory forever.

B. God Made Everything to Give Him Glory

- 1. Proverbs 16:4—The Lord has made all things for Himself.
- 2. Exodus 14:17—Pharaoh will give God glory unwillingly!!
- 3. Isaiah 14:21—God said, "I made this people to show forth my praise."
- 4. 1 Peter 2:9—That we should show forth the praise of Him

C. God will Judge Man if He Refuses to Give Glory

- 1. Romans 1:18-23
- 2. Jeremiah 13:15-17
Listen and give heed, do not be haughty, For the LORD has spoken.

Give glory to the LORD your God, Before He brings darkness And before your feet stumble On the dusky mountains, And while you are hoping for light He makes it into deep darkness, And turns it into gloom. But if you will not listen to it, My soul will sob in secret for such pride; And my eyes will bitterly weep And flow down with tears, Because the flock of the LORD has been taken captive.

3. Revelation 14:6-7
And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

III. Description of How to Give Glory to God

A. Focus your Life on Glorifying God

1. In Salvation
 - a. Philippians 2:9
"Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
 - b. 2 Corinthians 4:15—As people are saved this results in the glory of God. The more saved, the more giving thanks to God.
 - c. Ephesians 1:12, 14—God gives us all these things that we should be to the praise of His glory.
 - d. Acts 11:18—The missions report resulted in glory to God.
 - e. Acts 21:19—The ministry report resulted in Glory to God.
 - f. Romans 15:9—Ministry to Gentiles results in glory.
2. In Sanctification

- a. 1 Corinthians 10:31—" In all you do either in eating or drinking, do all to the glory of God."
- b. 1 Corinthians 6:20—"Glorify God in your body"
(Sexuality? 1 Thess. 4:3)
- c. John 8:50—"I seek not my own glory but of Him who sent me."
- d. Matthew 6:1-2—Don't be a hypocrite or steal glory and honor from men.
- e. Matthew 5:16—Good works glorify God.
- f. Galatians 1:24—Paul's ministry result, "And they we were glorifying God because of me."

B. Forgo All For The Glory of God

1. God's Glory Before Others

Exodus 32:22—People were worshiping the golden calf not glorifying God. They had to make a choice and kill brothers and neighbors. They obeyed (32:28) and 3000 men died.

2. God's Glory Before Self Interest

- a. John 21—Peter will give glory to God by his death. Peter obeyed, died, and glorified God.
- b. Isaiah 24:15—Glorify God on the earth.
Therefore glorify the LORD in the east, The name of the LORD, the God of Israel In the coastlands of the sea.
- c. 1 Peter 4:12-16—Glorify God in the fire.
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

- d. John 12:27-28—Jesus about to go to the cross, “Glorify thy name.”
- e. Psalm 69:9—David is pained when God’s name is slandered. (Do I hurt for God?)
- f. Galatians 6:17—“I bear on my body the brand marks of Christ.”
- g. Philippians 1:15-18—Paul’s concern was for God to be glorified even if he was not involved in the activity.

C. Formal Confession of Sin Glorifies God

- 1. Joshua 7:19—Achan’s sin
“...give I pray, glory to the Lord God of Israel. Make confession unto Him.”

Whenever we excuse or deny our sin we are impugning (blaming) God.
Genesis 3:12—Adam blames the woman...(then God) “you gave me”

- 2. 1 John 1:4-2:2—Distort, deceive, deny our sin and blame God. We are to confess.
- 3. 1 Samuel 5:4-7; 6:5—Confession to God gives Glory to God.

D. Faith, Trust, and Contentment in God Glorifies God

- 1. Romans 4:20—Abraham “...grew strong in faith giving glory to God.”
- 2. Daniel 3:17—Three Hebrew children
- 3. Philippians 4:10-19—Contentment in life glorifies God because it shows we trust in God’s Sovereignty.

E. Fruitfulness in Christians Glorifies God

- 1. John 15:8
- 2. Psalm 92:15
- 3. Philippians 1:10-11
- 4. 2 Peter 2:9

5. Romans 2:24—Opposite of glory
6. 2 Corinthians 5:15
7. Colossians 1:10
8. Ephesians 5:19
9. Galatians 5:22—Fruit of Spirit
10. Matthew 5:16

F. Function of Praising, Praying, and Proclaiming the Word Glorifies God

1. Praise

- a. Psalm 50:23
"He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God."
- b. Habakkuk 3:3-16
- c. Luke 17—Only one leper responded to Jesus, "Glorified God by giving thanks."

And it came about while He was on the way to Jerusalem, that He was passing between Samaria and Galilee.

And as He entered a certain village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

And when He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And it came about that as they were going, they were cleansed. Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.

And Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine — where are they? Was no one found who turned back to give glory to God, except this foreigner?"

2. Prayer

John 14:13

3. Proclaiming

- a. 2 Thessalonians 3:1—Pray that the word of God changes people.
- b. Galatians 1:23—Paul was a persecutor, but now a preacher, and God is Glorified.
- c. Acts 13:48—The Gentiles glorified God because of the word.

G. Force of Unity Glorifies God

Romans 15:5-7—Unity produces one mind and one mouth to the glory of the Lord.

IV. The Christian will be Glorified by GOD

A. Honor

Romans 8:30

B. Reward / Exaltation

- 1. Romans 8:17—2 honors:
 - a. Heirs of God, and
 - b. Joint heirs if we suffer with Him
- 2. 1 John 2:28
- 3. 1 Peter 1:17
- 4. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
- 5. 1 Corinthians 3, 4
- 6. Romans 14:10
- 7. 2 Timothy 2:11-12
- 8. Revelation 2-3—Overcomers
- 9. Hebrews 2, 3, 6, 10—*Metachoi*-partners with the King in His kingdom

Conclusion

The God of glory has made all of creation and all His creatures to worship, glorify, and enjoy Him forever. (There is a cause-effect relationship to the act of giving glory to God and the result of enjoying Him.) If we are to know God, we must know who He is and what He desires of us. Our God desires that we acknowledge who He is and approach Him boldly in praise and honor. This gives Glory to the Lord our God.