

Q6: How can we glorify God?

We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

Deuteronomy 11:1

Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.

Commentary

The whole life of a Christian should be nothing but praises and thanks to God. We should neither eat, nor drink, nor sleep, but eat to God, and sleep to God, and work to God, and talk to God, do all to his glory and praise.... As we receive all from God, so we should lay all at his feet, and say, 'I will not live in a course of sin that will not stand with the favour of my God'.... We glorify God when we exalt him in our souls above all creatures in the world, when we give him the highest place in our love and in our joy, when all our affections are set upon him as the greatest good. This is seen also by opposition, when we will not offend God for any creature, when we can ask our affections, "Whom have I in heaven but thee?". God is our God by covenant, because he hath made over himself unto us. Every believing Christian hath the title passed over to him, so that God is his portion, and his inheritance. There is more comfort in this, that God is our God, than the heart of man can conceive. It is larger than his heart, and therefore though we cannot say, that riches, or honours, or friends, &c, are ours, yet if we be able to say by the Spirit of faith that God is ours, then we have all in him. His wisdom is ours to find out a way to do us good;...if under the guilt of sin, his mercy is ours to forgive us; if any want, his all-sufficiency is ours to supply, or to make it good. If God be ours, then whatsoever God can do is ours, and whatsoever God hath is ours.... God will have us make his glory our aim, that he may bestow himself upon us.

Richard Sibbes (1577–1635). An English Puritan theologian, Sibbes was known in London in the early 17th century as "the Heavenly Doctor Sibbes." Preacher at Gray's Inn, London and Master of Catherine Hall, Cambridge, his most famous work is *The Bruised Reed and Smoking Flax*.

From "Divine Meditations" in *The Complete Works of Richard Sibbes*, Volume VII (Edinburgh: James Nichol, 1864), 185–186, 216, 221.

Further Reading

“Glory”, “Enterprise”, and “Holiness” in *Concise Theology*, by J. I. Packer.

Prayer

God grant we may all be of that happy number. If we can call God our God, we shall endeavour, by the Holy Ghost, to be like God, we shall have his divine image stamped upon our souls, and endeavour to be followers of that God who is our Father...whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we shall do all to the glory of God.... You that can call God yours, God help you from this moment to glorify him more and more: and if God be your God...if the love of God abounds in your hearts, you will be willing, on every occasion, to do every thing to promote his honour and glory.... O God, be thou their God! and grant that their God may be their glory. Even so, Lord Jesus! Amen.

George Whitefield (1714 –1770). An English Anglican minister, Whitefield crossed the Atlantic 13 times and for 34 years preached throughout England and America (as part of what is known as the Great Awakening). Whitefield’s voice could be heard over vast distances and was reported at one point to be heard by over thirty thousand people in the open air. Whitefield preached more than 18,000 sermons in his lifetime, fewer than 90 have survived in any form.

From “Sermon LXXIII: God a Believer’s Glory” in *Sermons on Important Subjects by the Rev. George Whitfield* (London: Fisher, Son & Jackson, 1832), 764–768.

Adapted by Timothy Keller and Sam Shammas from the Reformation catechisms
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