



# World Christian Fellowship

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## First Pillar- Glory of God

### Three great pillars!

- ✓ **The glory of God**
- ✓ **Lordship of Christ**
- ✓ **Holy Spirit's revelation concerning the church.**

God the Father's glory, God the Son's Lordship, and God the Holy Spirit's revelation for the life of the church.

Wonderful theological truths that God is to be glorified,  
Christ is to be acknowledged as Lord, and  
The Spirit of God is to be obeyed as to His revelation concerning  
the life of the church.

The ultimate end of everything being to glorify God. The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**, *"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God,"*

That including the most mundane thing, the most routine thing of eating and drinking. I did understand that the sweeping purpose of everything was that God would be glorified.

How could you live your life to God's glory?

How could you teach others to live their lives to His glory?

### **Glory of God – Definition**

The reason for our existence is to know and glorify God.

The reason for creation is that God may be glorified.

The purpose of the universe is to create a theatre in which God can redeem a humanity who will be drawn into His presence to glorify Him forever and ever.

Everything is about glorifying God.

The heavens declare the glory of God.

**Isaiah 43:20**, "The beast of the field gives Me glory."

The only rebel in the universe is man and the indictment also spelled out on man.

**Romans 1:21**, "When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God."

There are only two kinds of people in the world,

- ✓ The people who glorify God and
- ✓ The people who don't glorify God.
  
- ❖ The people who glorify God end up in heaven.
- ❖ The people who do not glorify God end up in hell.

Glorifying God is the purpose for everything.

It's a tragic thing not to glorify God.

Remember Herod in Acts 12?

Herod, who wanted glory for himself. So, he declared Herod Day in the amphitheatre, Caesarea, put on his royal robe, elevated himself on the throne, had all the people hail him as he gave a speech and the people responded.

**Acts 12:22**, *And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"*

Just what Herod wanted to hear.

**Response from God?**

**Acts 12:23**, *Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.*

Not exactly the planned end of Herod Day.

## Why?

Because Herod did not glorify God.

Remember Nebuchadnezzar from Daniel 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter?

Nebuchadnezzar tried to take glory to himself, and God turned him into a beast for years.

Glorifying God is the heart of everything. Living a life to the glory of God is the reason that God has saved us, Christ has redeemed us.

**Daniel 4:30-33**, *The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"*

<sup>31</sup> *While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! <sup>32</sup> And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven <sup>li</sup>times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."*

<sup>33</sup> *That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.*

## How do we glorify God?

How practically do I live my life to the glory of God?

## How can I be to the praise of His glory?

We did our first series of Bible study on the letter to Ephesians. Ephesians 1 clearly states that we are here to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1,

It is for the praise of His glory

- ✓ He chose us.
- ✓ He loved us,
- ✓ He adopted us,
- ✓ He instructed us,
- ✓ He gave us truth,
- ✓ He sealed us with the Spirit,
- ✓ He promised us eternal inheritance.
- ✓ He has done all these things.

We cannot add to His innate glory. We cannot add to His attributes. But we can give Him honour that He is due.

## How do we glorify God?

### 1. Confessing Jesus as Lord

The first way that we glorify God is by confessing Jesus as Lord.

**Philippians 2:7-11**, *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of*

*men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Great passage of the self-emptying humiliation of Jesus, He exists in the form of God but doesn't regard that as something to be held on to or grasped but emptied Himself.

You cannot ever glorify God unless you start by confessing Jesus as Lord.

You can never live a life that glorifies God apart from confessing Jesus as Lord.

**Romans 10:9-10**, *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

This we know to be a divine miracle.

**1 Corinthians 12:3**, *“No man can say Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Spirit.”*

This is the foundation of glorifying God.

You confess Jesus as Lord He is *‘kurios;’* you are *‘doulos.’* You are slave.

In 3 John, John writes that we should care for those who are worthy preachers of the gospel, for they do it for the sake of the name. Everything is for the sake of the name, for the glory of God.

In the words of Jesus which are unmistakable!

**John 5:23**, *that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent Him.*

You cannot affirm God unless you affirm the Son of God.

Jesus is Lord. He is the only Saviour, and only Redeemer. There’s not one person in the history of the world who can glorify God at all apart from acknowledging Jesus as Lord.

**John 13:31-32**, *So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. <sup>32</sup> If God is*

*glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.*

The glory of God is tied to the glory of His Son.  
They both are linked together.

The greatest testimony ever given concerning Jesus, greater than the testimony of His words and His works was the testimony from heaven by His Father.

At Jesus baptism,

**Matthew 3:17**, *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

At the mount of transfiguration.

**Matthew 17:5**, *While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*

- When you acknowledge that the testimony of the Father is true, you give glory to the Father.
- When you reject the Son, then you diminish the testimony of the Father.

You dishonour the Father by denying the truth of His affirmation of the Son.

Our church has never wavered in its life, never wavered from an acknowledgment that we affirm that what the Father has declared to be true about Christ is in fact true.

We as a church honour the Son, and therefore we honour the Father.

- ✓ Our church is God centred
- ✓ So, we are Christ centred.

We are focused on the unchanging glory of God and the unchanging reality of Christ who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

We are committed to the honour of Christ, which honours the Father, who affirms the reality of His Son as the one and only Saviour and Redeemer.

## **2. Focus to glorify God**

We must focus on glorifying God.

You aim in your life at that purpose only.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**, *“Whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do all to the glory of God.”*

This is the all-consuming desire.

**This the relentless focus of our mind should be what would glorify God?**

**How can I glorify God?**

**By what means can I glorify God in every circumstances of my life?**

You do it at any cost.

In John 21 Jesus was talking to Peter.

**John 21:18-19**, *Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.”* <sup>19</sup> *This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”*

The future arrest and crucifixion of Peter was told by Jesus.

By death Peter would glorify God!

You glorify God when you aim your life at that purpose, no matter what the result, and no matter what the cost.

This is taking up your cross.

This is denying yourself.

That is why this church has never been preoccupied with its own comforts.

This is one of the prime reasons why we have never been a congregation of people who come here expecting somehow to be personally elevated in our own feelings about ourselves.

We are not looking for something to get from God.

The glory of God is the all-consuming reality, and if it costs you everything.

Peter wrote before his life ended.

**1 Peter 4:14-16**, *If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.*

Read some of the life stories of missionaries how much it costed them for the sake of Gospel.

It also means, if you're going to aim your life at that purpose, that there's no price too high to pay for the glory of God.

Also, you suffer when God is dishonoured.

Psalm 69:9, Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up,  
And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on  
me.

David wrote this messianic prophecy!

**John 2:15-17**, *When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. <sup>16</sup>And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" <sup>17</sup>Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."*

When you are living your life to the glory of God, you will glorify God no matter what it cost, and you feel the pain when God is dishonoured.

**Why do we preach so much about false Gospel?**

**Why do we expose the false?**

Just to show we are the righteous.

**Absolutely not!**

God dishonoured and many times in the name of Jesus Christ. Sometimes it brings such a pain and agony in me that I am not able to tolerate when God's name is being dishonoured.

### 3. Confessing sin

We glorify God by confessing sin.

In the book of Joshua, when the children of Israel were being brought into the land by the great power of God Achan, who disobeyed and took the spoils, brought them back and buried them in his tent when the people of Israel had been commanded to take no spoil.

**Joshua 17:19**, *Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."*

Give glory to God.

**How do I do that?**

By confessing sin.

**Joshua 7:20**, *And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done:*

*Joshua 7:24-26, Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. <sup>25</sup>And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us?*

*The Lord will trouble you this day.” So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. <sup>26</sup> Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.*

- All the people.
- All the possessions.
- All the animals.

But before the act of judgment fell, God was to be glorified by a confession of sin that showed that the judgment was a righteous judgment, and therefore God was vindicated.

You give glory to God when you confess your sin, so that the chastening that comes into your life is seen as a just act by God.

When you deny your sin, when you hide your sin, when you will not confess your sin and your sinfulness and things come into your life that are troublesome that are the chastening of God.

But where there is a heart of true and pure and honest confession of sin, there is a readiness to accept the chastening of God as that which is deserved. Confess your sin.

**Psalm 51:4**, *Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.*

David had sinned against Uriah and Bathsheba, but in his mind, it was really all against God. All David ever asked for at that point was that the chastening have an end.

He wanted to receive back the restoration of the joy of his salvation. Confession is to admit your sin, to repent for your sin, and to give honour to God if God decides to chasten your sin.

A person who really understands the horror of sin could never complain about anything that came into their life in a negative way, because all of it could be perceived legitimately as chastening from the Lord.

Wonderful thing to confess your sin and to be able to worship God in the midst of the most difficult issues and situations of life knowing that this is what you deserve and that God's purpose in it is the purpose of a Father who wants to chasten a son so you can moved in the path of righteousness.

#### **4. Trusting God**

**Romans 4:19-20**, *And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> He did*

*not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,*

God is glorified when you believe His promise.

The great faith chapter of Hebrews 11.

**By faith!**

Trusting God is simply saying I believe that what God says, He will do.

Do you know what is the contradiction in some Christians? They claim that they believe in the Lord. Yet they will be worried and anxious about every little thing. That is terrible.

**Do you really trust God?**

**Do you really believe that the Lord is going to sustain you?**

**God will supply all your needs according to His riches and glory by Christ Jesus?**

Then act like it.

We need to learn as Christians to demonstrate the kind of trust that is exhibited in the direst of circumstances because we believe God can be taken at His Word, like Abraham.

## 5. Fruitfulness.

**John 15:8**, *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

Jesus talks about the vine and the branches and that it's the Father's will that you bear much fruit that the Father may be glorified.

God is glorified in our fruitfulness.

What is fruitfulness?

There are two kinds of fruit.

- Attitude fruit,
- Action fruit.

### **Attitude fruit:**

**Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

### **Action fruit:**

**Philippians 1:11**, *being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

**Hebrews 13:15**, *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

Action fruit without attitude fruit is legalism.

Action fruit as the result of attitude fruit is true spirituality.

God wants us to be fruitful by walking in the Spirit and living in the Spirit. Out of the fruit of the Spirit comes the behaviour that is Spirit-driven, Spirit-empowered, the fruit of righteousness, the fruit of praise.

**Colossians 1:10**, *that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

God is glorified when you bear much fruit.

You don't want to be a little-fruit Christian. You can't be a no-fruit Christian, because if you are a Christian, then the life of God will manifest.

**Matthew 7:20**, *Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

## 6. Praise

**Psalm 50:23**, *Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God."*

God is glorified when we praise Him.

**Luke 17:11-18**, *Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. <sup>13</sup> And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup> So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"*

### **What does it mean to praise?**

1. Reciting God's attributes.
2. Reciting His works.
3. Giving thanks for both.

Reciting His attributes, His character, His nature, what is true about Him.

Reciting His works, what He has done.

Giving thanks for both.

## 7. Prayer

**John 14:13-14**, *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

### **Why does God answer prayer?**

To put Himself on display, put His glory on display.

- When you pray it's not as if you are going to change God's plans which have been established from before creation.
- When you pray, it's not that you are going to make some great massive paradigm shift take place in the kingdom.

The primary purpose of our praying is to let God put Himself on display in visible ways. Pray and you will see first-hand of God's great power and glory.

### **Would God have sustained His ministry in the purposes of God?**

Certainly, if God was going to accomplish His purpose.

Read the life story of George Muller how God provided for the ministry in Bristol.

But what continued to strengthen that man's resolve and make him the man that he was, was every time he prayed, he saw the glory of God displayed.

Pray so that God can put His glory on display. Pray so that you can see His power and His grace.

## **8. Spiritual gifts**

Using our spiritual gifts, which are Holy Spirit-enabled abilities that come to us from the Lord because He wants to minister through us to the church.

**1 Peter 4:11**, *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

We understand that we use our gifts to minister to those to whom we speak. My serving gift, your serving gift is to minister to those to whom we serve. So, we have these gifts for the mutual edification of one another. You use your gift and God is glorified.

**2 Corinthians 4:15**, *For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.*

*“All things are for your sake.”*

### **What does he mean by that?**

Everything I do is for your sake that the grace, saving grace, which is spreading to many may redound to the glory of God.

Every time I bring the knowledge of the gospel to someone who believes, it adds one more voice to the hallelujah chorus. We glorify God in that.

We glorify God by proclaiming the Word.

**2 Thessalonians 3:1**, *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,*

**1 Corinthians 6:20**, *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

**Romans 15:5-6**, *Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Accept one another as Christ accepted us to the glory of God.

## 9. Contentment

Hard to be content in a culture we live in currently.

**Philippians 4:12-13**, *I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

In any circumstance I have learned that the secret of being filled and going hungry, having an abundance and suffering need.

Why?

**Philippians 4:19-20**, *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup>Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Are you content with what God gives you and do you give Him glory for it?

## 10. No competition

Seems to be so much competition in ministry.

The world of competitiveness says that somebody won, and Somebody lost.

We are wired in our fallenness.

We are wired in our pride for victory.

We are wired for the ego fulfilment that comes with that.

God is glorified even if someone else is honoured above you.

Simplest and clearest understanding of this was Philippians 1.

Without question, the apostle Paul is the great gospel light of his era. There was nobody even close.

Paul writes to the Philippians from the prison. He has been put in a very difficult position. There are people who know that he is a prisoner, because the Lord is using him there for the advancement of the gospel. During his imprisonment, the gospel did wonderfully advanced. His imprisonment did work out for the advancement of the gospel.

But there were others who, jealous of Paul, who had animosity toward Paul because he was loved by everyone. Paul was the most used, they wanted to spread the idea that he was in prison because he had failed somehow.

Perhaps a moral failure, the Lord had put him on a shelf and now everybody ought to turn away from Paul and turn to this new breed. They were scornful of the apostle Paul and condemning of his condition.

**Philippians 1:15-18**, *Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: <sup>16</sup>[\[c\]](#)The former preach*

*Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; <sup>17</sup> but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defence of the gospel. <sup>18</sup> What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretence or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.*

What an ugly thing that is.

Of all places where selfish ambition, strife, and envy should show up, it shouldn't be in the ministry of the gospel.

So, let us look at all the 10 things.

1. Confessing Jesus as Lord
2. Focusing on the glory of God
3. Confessing sin
4. Trusting God
5. Fruitfulness
6. Praise
7. Prayer
8. Spiritual Gifts
9. Contentment
10. No Competition