

Theme: A life that is centered on glorifying God is full of joy, because God is supremely worthy and it is why we were created.

## I. Intro - Extreme In Everything But Faith

- A. Many “extreme” things today - sports, even air guitar
- B. People get fanatic about almost everything - food, drinks, phone
- C. But not God - don’t get too serious about Him!
- D. Our new series - All In - examining what the Bible teaches about being a disciple of Jesus, and how Biblical discipleship often clashes with the lifestyle of the American Dream.

## II. The Call: A Life for God’s Glory

- A. Paul says we must do everything for God’s glory  
So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31
  - 1. Paul says that everything we do is for God’s glory
  - 2. He includes eating, drinking - and everything!
  - 3. This occurs in a discussion about eating food sacrificed to idols - and will it help or hurt others
  - 4. All our life choices should be centered on what brings God glory
- B. This is a consistent call in Scripture  
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5  
  
You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corin. 6:19–20

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14:7–8

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, Colossians 3:23

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11

- 1. The verses are a call for a life centered on God!
- 2. The consistent call in Scripture is that we live for the glory of God, loving and serving Him with all of our being, in every part of life

## III. The Basis: The Supremacy of God

- A. If anyone else made such demands it would be sinful
  - 1. This would be egotistical and wicked for anyone else
  - 2. So why is it okay for God to require everything to be God-centered?
- B. The Supremacy of God over everything
  - 1. God alone is self-existent (uncreated)

For as **the Father has life in himself**, so he has granted **the Son to have life in himself**. John 5:26

God said to Moses, “**I am who I am**. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I AM has sent me to you**.’” Exodus 3:14

- a. Everything else exists only because God wills it to be so

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, **for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being**. Revelation 4:11

2. God alone is self-sufficient (needs nothing else)

And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. Acts 17:25

- a. God does not need anything from anyone
- b. Everything else was created by God and is sustained by God moment by moment

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16–17

3. God alone is Infinite in Presence (Omnipresent)

“Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 23:24

- a. Every other being is finite and one place at a time

4. God alone is Infinite in knowledge (Omniscient)

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. Psalms 139:1–4

- a. God knows everything - even before it happens
- b. He does not learn or guess - one simple, eternal act of knowing all that is or will be or could be
- c. We can never know like this

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Psalms 139:6

5. God alone is Infinite in power (Omnipotent)

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?” Daniel 4:35

- a. God has all power - it is His and none can resist Him
- b. All other authority and power in the universe is derivative - we are granted it by God [Remember Jesus’ words to Pilate]

C. There is none like God, so He must be glorified

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. <sup>10</sup> I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. Isaiah 46:9–10

1. God is infinitely greater than the rest of the universe combined, so the only proper response is to glorify Him with all of our being and all of our works.
2. To live for anyone or anything other than God is not only idolatry - it is self-destructive cosmic treason of the highest order.

#### IV. The Result: Our Unending Joy!

##### A. Does David contradict this?

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalms 16:11

1. David seems to be focused on his own joy
2. He even pictures heaven as a place of joy and pleasure for him
3. How can this be? Is it God's glory or our joy?

##### B. The consistent call in Scripture for our joy & desire

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Isaiah 55:1-2

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. Revelation 22:17

##### C. God has created in such a way that His glory is our joy!

1. Because creation has flowed from the loving hand of God, it finds its greatest joy in glorifying God
2. Since we alone were made in God's image, we find deeper joy than anything else in creation when we glorify God with all of our being.
3. The deepest joy we can experience is found when we find our desire in God, and the greatest glory to God is seen when we are most satisfied in Him.
4. Thus, God's glory and our joy are not only not in conflict, they are really one and the same.
5. This is why our catechism begins with this question - it the foundation of the Christian life  
Question 1: Why did God create humans?  
Answer: To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

#### V. All In To Apply the Word

##### A. Do I have a biblical view of God's supremacy?

1. Our culture minimizes God to maximize ourselves
2. Is the following quote true of me?

I suddenly saw that someone could use all of the language of evangelical Christianity and yet the center was fundamentally the self – my need of salvation – and God is auxiliary to that. I also saw that quite a lot of evangelical Christianity can easily slip, can become centered in me, in my need of salvation, and not in the glory of God. Leslie Newbigin.

Do you ever wonder just what God requires?  
You think He's just an errand boy to satisfy your  
wandering desires. When you gonna wake up,  
when you gonna wake up  
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things  
that remain? Bob Dylan

3. Do I recognize God has all rights - and I have the responsibility to glorify Him? Or do I think he owes me?
4. What is central in my life, my goals, my plans - the glory of God, or my own desires?

B. Do I see that glorifying God brings me the greatest joy?

1. We think that to focus on God will minimize our joy - the great lie!
2. We were created in such a way that glorifying God brings us the greatest joy, but chasing our own joy is a sure path to losing it!
3. Where do I think true joy is found?
4. The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives or children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams. But God is the ocean. Jonathan Edwards

C. The Lord's Supper - Our Table of Joy

1. This Table reminds us True Joy is found in Christ

2. Here we feast upon Christ instead of the empty idols of this world

JESUS, Thou Joy of loving hearts! Thou Fount of Life! Thou Light of men! From the best bliss that earth imparts, We turn unfill'd to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; Thou savest those that on Thee call; To them that seek Thee, Thou art good, To them that find Thee, All in All!

We taste Thee, O Thou Living Bread, And long to feast upon Thee still! We drink of Thee, the Fountain Head, And thirst our souls from Thee to fill!

### The Joy of A God-Centered Life

1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 16:11

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Communion

Jude 1:24-25

Teaching keywords: God's glory; joy; christian life; salvation & deliverance; catechism

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—<sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24–25

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalms 16:11