

## Where Is Our focus?

I was exposed to this verse in my youth, **1 Corinthians 10:31**  
*“Whatever you do, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*

Let's take a walk together this morning, let's wax nostalgic, a phrase that reminds me of my maternal Grandmother Irene McKinney.

I'm not completely sure why the glory of God has become so central for me.

The roots probably go back farther than I remember.

So, this verse begs the question, does everything in life from eating pizza to drinking Coke supposed to somehow glorify — make God look glorious.

So early on, it felt primarily like a duty.

This is what you are supposed to do.

But the Bible reveals things about the glory of God that make this duty in **1 Corinthians 10:31** explosive with significance.

So, let's get started.

## Can One Define Glory?

I use the term “glory of God” very often. You here me refer to the glory of God quiet regularly when I’m praying.

It sounds rather magnanimous, to be heard referring to God’s glory.

However, to define it is much like trying to define beauty.

I used the word beauty, because beauty is also a tremendous reference word when discussing God.

Defining these words can be difficult, but let’s take a stab at it anyway.

In *Isaiah 6: 2-3*, you have these angels with wings: “*With two they cover their face, with two they cover their feet, and with two they flew.*

*And one cried to the other: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty.*

*The whole earth is filled with his . . .*” You might expect them to say “holiness.” And they don’t. *They say, “glory” (*Isaiah 6:2-3*).*

So why the move from “holy, holy, holy” to “the whole earth is filled with your *glory*”?

I define the holiness of God as his intrinsic, infinite, purity and worth.

It's intrinsic.

It is who he *is*.

But when he moves out into the earth — when he goes public,

when he displays himself for the world to see —

the Bible regularly calls that radiance “glory.”

So, it's not as though holiness and glory are different things.

They are the same thing, expressed differently.

One is the intrinsic worth and purity.

The other is that worth and purity going public to be worshiped.

## **Infinite Beauty and Worth**

My best effort to define glory is the public radiance of the infinite beauty and worth of God —

all the things about God that make him excellent and beautiful  
and desirable  
and supremely valuable.

In Jonathan Edwards's book, *The End For Which God Created the World*, you see this truth about the glory of God and you see it all over the Bible — that God does everything from eternity to eternity for his own glory.

God does *everything he does* to lift up his beauty and his magnificence for people to see and to love and to enjoy.

That means he created you and me for his glory  
(Isaiah 43:7).

*We are predestined for sonship unto the praise of the glory of his grace.(Ephesians 1:5)*

*“These things I have spoken to you that my joy might be in you and that your joy might be full”*  
*(John 15:11).*

Why?

Because when my joy is in you, your joy is a reflection of the radiance that I have because of my love for my Father and for myself.

Look at the person next to you and say, “I need more proof.”

## The Great Conspiracy for Glory

I have just recently read again, the prayer of Jesus in *John 17* which begins, “*Father, the hour has come. Glorify the Son that the Son may glorify you.*” And then verses 4–5: “*Father, I glorified you on the earth having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now glorify me in your presence with the glory that I had with you before the world was.*”

In other words, the Father and the Son are in this great conspiracy of making each other look magnificent, and therein their joy consists.

So for me to have my joy in him and for him to be shining through me is virtually the same thing, which answered a different question for me: If God does everything for his glory, why is he not an egomaniac?

There are lots of people who have turned away from God because God is so into God.

God magnifies God.

God exalts God.

God glorifies God.

It's all over the Bible.

That little interchange about joy in John 17 made me realize God is not an egomaniac because when God lifts up God,

when God magnifies the beauty of God,

the power of God,

the sovereignty of God,

the wisdom of God,

the love of God,

the justice of God,

the truth of God,

— everything about himself — *when he lifts himself up*, he is doing it for me to see and to enjoy.

God's seeking to be glorified is virtually the same as him seeking to satisfy me.

God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in him.

So God is not an egomaniac.

He is loving me when he lifts himself up for me to enjoy, because I was made for the glory of God.

My heart here has a glory-of-God-shaped vacuum in it.

Unless God gives me God — unless God shows me God — then I am going to be unhappy all my eternity.

## The Gospel of Glory

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers to keep them from seeing — now listen to this phrase — the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4).*

The gospel is the gospel of the glory of Christ.

I think that has two meanings.

Jesus Christ was displaying his glory on the cross and, at the same time, he was being glorious on the cross.

He did the most glorious thing on the cross, thus, purchasing my new birth and capacity to see the glory that he was displaying on the cross.

He was paying the price for me to enjoy his glory, and he was being the most glorious person imaginable while he was doing it.

## **The Greatest Pleasure in the World**

The nitty gritty practical truth is this: Carl Dennis is a sinner.

Let me take just a minute to explain to you one of the sins in my life that besets me.

It has to do with the female computer generated voice in my truck.

If I push the button on my steering wheel to make a phone call, the voice says, “Please give a command.”

To start with, I can’t used to a female voice asking me to give her a command.

I always know when she doesn't understand my southern accent because she responds by asking me to choose a devise.

If I say call Nicole Dennis she is not going to make that call. I have to say call Nick Cole Dennis to make the call work.

Needless to say, if I lose my temper with her, she does not respond well.

Go figure.

Every day I am tempted to have attitudes or thoughts,

to say things,

to do things that are defective,

hurtful,

proud,

and selfish.

What is the gospel way to slay that dragon?

My answer is that sin is never performed out of duty.

You only do sin because sin is lying to you, telling you that you will be happier.

It will feel good.

You have to slay that promise of pleasure with the promise of a superior pleasure.

And in the end, the highest pleasure is knowing,

loving,

and delighting in the glory of God manifest in Jesus Christ, which means you have been liberated from sin.

You might be tempted to think that, for a person that has been liberated from sin, you still struggle greatly.

Good, that means you are still in the fight.

*II Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

Fighting to see and savor the glory of God is not only a great honor to him, it is a great liberation for the one, like you or me, battling sin every day.