

# Living for God's Glory

Michael Woody | Reformation Theme: Glory to God alone

Living for God's glory answers life's simplest question, What is the true meaning of life?

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## WHY THIS TOPIC?

1. I recently typed in "What is the purpose of life?" on Google and I received ~60,600,000 hits on this topic.
2. William Carey, one of the greatest Baptist missionaries of all time, had these words for us regarding ambition: **Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.** I would call that ambitious!

## SCRIPTURAL ADMONITIONS TO LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

1. The opposition to living for God's glory is self: John 12:42-43
  - a. In this example our Lord hits on the motive for why the Pharisees did what they did, they wanted the praise of men.
  - b. They were engaged in what appeared to be devoted, selfless service to God - but it was done for the wrong motives
2. The basis of living for God's glory is Christ's work: John 8:50; John 7:18
  - a. When we consider the life of our Lord we see time and time again that He lived for the Father's glory.
  - b. Jesus commanded us to die to self and he repeatedly testified that this is exactly what He did in His own life and words.
  - c. I would dare say the reason this was how Christ lived His life is because it was the subject of His prayer life.
3. The means of living for God's glory is grace: John 12:28; John 17:4; 1 Cor 15:20-28

4. The means for living for God's glory is faith : Hebrews 11:13-16

## **REFORMATION EXPRESSIONS OF LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY**

1. John Stott makes this statement,

In this same ambition lay what was perhaps the greatest single secret of the strength of the Protestant Reformation. One of the essential differences between pre-Reformation religion and Reformation religion is that the former was in many respects human-centred, while the Reformers were determined to be God-centred.

2. So how was this seen in the Reformation?
  - a. In the matter of authority they rejected human traditions, because they believed in the supremacy and the sufficiency of God's Word written.
  - b. In the matter of salvation they rejected the merits of human beings, because they believed in the complete effectiveness of Christ's finished work.
3. The Reformers turned their backs on Pharisaism and hollow religion. The Pharisees were obsessed with the quest for self glory and so was the church at this time. Religious leaders in their day were not concerned to bring glory to God; they wanted it for themselves.
  - a. "It is not sufficient for anyone, and it does him no good to recognize God in his glory and majesty, unless he recognizes him in the humility and shame of the cross." —Martin Luther
  - b. "We never truly glory in him until we have utterly discarded our own glory. . . . The elect are justified by the Lord, in order that they may glory in him, and in none else." —John Calvin

## **HOW YOU AND I CAN LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY**

1. We can live for God's glory in our worship
  - a. Stott says, True heart-worship is the most God-centred, God-honouring activity in which we either can or will ever participate. It is to credit God with the glory due to his name, to be occupied with God and with God alone. Nothing so disinfests us of self-centredness.
  - b. Just because it is public worship, however, does not mean it is for God's glory - this must be a caution for us!

2. We can live for God's glory in our evangelism
  - a. True evangelism is closely allied to true worship. Paul calls it a sacrificial service in which evangelists become priests as they offer their converts to God.
  - b. At its heart, evangelism is manifesting God and making Him big, not a church or a person.
3. We can live for God's glory in our ministry in the church
  - a. Church is not about what you get - church is about what you give for God's glory.
  - b. The word ministry means 'to serve'.
4. We can live for God's glory in our motives in life
  - a. To live for God's glory means that I seek my approval from God rather than others
  - b. To live for God's glory addresses our motives in life

### **'But I Say to You ...': Christ the Controversialist** Modern Pharisaism and Its Remedy

It is only when we humble ourselves and acknowledge that God is God, our Creator and our Judge, our Beginning from whom we come and our End to whom we go that the Pharisaism within us will surrender to true Christianity. Then we shall no longer live horizontally like the Pharisees (seeking glory from, and giving glory to, other people) but vertically (recognizing God as the sole source and recipient of glory). We shall love the glory of God more than the glory of human beings. Delivered from the weight and oppression of self-centredness, we shall begin to experience heaven on earth, the life with God's eternal throne at the centre.