

New City Catechism

Question 6: “How can we glorify God?”

Answer: “We glorify God by enjoying Him, loving Him, trusting Him, and obeying His will, commands, and law.”

The purpose of our study today will be threefold: 1. The examining of what the glory of God is, and its place in our lives. 2. Why we should glorify God as His creation. 3. What does it look like to glorify God? Hopefully, at the end of our study, you will leave inspired to spend more time contemplating the glory of God.

Our central text for today will be **Matthew 5:13-16**:

13“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

14“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15**Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that^b they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

I. What is the glory of God?

- a. Creation declares God’s glory (**Isa. 6:3, Ps. 19:1, Rom. 1:20**, Ps. 29)
Rom. 1:20 clearly states that God’s glory is the _____ display of His _____ attributes.
- b. _____ is God’s glory made manifest (Ex. 40:34-38, **John 1:14, Heb. 1:1-3**, Rom. 5:1-2, Heb. 13:20-21)

II. Why should we glorify God?

- a. God glorifies _____ (Jer. 13:11, **Isa. 43:6-7, 1 Sam. 12:22**, Isa. 48:9, John 17:1)

- b. *Imago Dei* / We were created in God's _____ and for God's _____ (**Gen. 1:27**, Ps. 96:1-3, Ps. 145:10-12, **Rom. 11:36**)
- c. Only in glorifying God can we find true _____.
 - 1. Westminster Catechism Question 1 asks: "What is the chief end of man?" The answer: "To glorify God and enjoy Him forever." (Ps. 37:4, Phil. 1:20-21, **Ps. 16:11**, Rom. 15:13)

The only way that we can find joy is by praising and glorifying our Creator. C.S. Lewis writes this in his book "Reflections On The Psalms":

"But the most obvious fact about praise – whether of God or anything – strangely escaped me. I thought of it in terms of compliment, approval, or the giving of honor. I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise unless (sometimes even if) shyness or the fear of boring others is deliberately brought in to check it. The world rings with praise – lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game – praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians and scholars . . . My whole, more general difficulty about the praise of God depended on my absurdly denying to us, as regards the supremely Valuable, what we delight to do, what indeed we can't help doing, about everything else we value. I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses, but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are, the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. (93–95)

III. What does it look like to glorify God?

- a. All have sinned and _____ of the glory of God. (Ps. 143:2, 2 Cor. 3:5. Rom. 3:10-12, **Rom. 3:23**)
- b. But (**Rom. 3:24**) ... _____ as God is the perfect example of loving God, trusting Him, and obeying His will, commands, and law.
- c. Therefore, be _____ of God (Eph. 5:1, **2 Cor. 3:18**, 1 Cor. 11:1)

Let's end our discussion by reading Jesus' Priestly prayer for us in **John 17:1-10**:

1When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, **2**since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. **3**And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **4**I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. **5**And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

6"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. **7**Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. **8**For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. **9**I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. **10**All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.