

Week 5 - Soli Deo Gloria

Glory To God Alone

Defining “Glory”

“The glory of God is the radiance of the essence and brightness of all of His character displayed throughout the universe.” A helpful illustration is a light bulb. The light bulb itself would be like God, but the light that emanates from it is like the glory. So, the glory of God is the essence and the awesomeness that is displayed of all that is God. It isn't God, but it's what radiates from him.” – Steve Treichler

? What stands out about this definition? Does it change the way you think about the glory of God?

? Considering this definition, what does it look like to glorify something?

? What things are you tempted to glorify in your life? (Note: these can be good things.)

To God Goes All Glory

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

“Praise be to you, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.

¹² Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.

¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.

? How does 1 Chronicles talk about God's glory?

? According to the Chronicler, why does God deserve all honor and glory?

? David praised God for who He is, and acknowledged His glory. How do you find it hard to do this in your daily life? What gets in the way or inhibits you from giving God praise?

? How can we shift our attitude towards giving God glory when we find ourselves giving glory to other things or people?

Glorifying God In Our Lives

Psalm 96: 1-6 (NIV)

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

John 17:1-5 (NIV)

¹ After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

? How does Jesus provide an example for how to glorify God?

? How did Jesus' work on the cross glorify the Father, and how can we model Jesus in our daily lives?

? How do you inadvertently try to bypass the cross for salvation – maybe even in ways that are not inherently bad? How does this rob God of the glory he is due?

? What are some moments in your life where you have clearly seen God glory?

For Discussion and Accountability

? What is distracting you from giving glory only to God? What practical steps can I take this week to turn away from those things?