

# HOW DO WE GLORIFY GOD?

by John D. Hannah

**TO THE GROUP LEADER:** This resource is designed to help you lead others to better understand one of the “Basics of the Faith” booklets published by P&R. The numbers in brackets indicate the page number in the booklet. Below each question is an answer based on what the author presents, or advice on how to discuss the question. You have the freedom to adapt the questions to best fit your group.

A good teaching technique is to distribute the questions to the group and have them write down how they would answer BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, members can refine their answers based on their reading. As a group, members can discuss their views to affirm or modify what they wrote.

1. Before reading this booklet, how would you answer the question: How do I glorify God?  
Use this as a starting question. Let the group say how they might have stumbled through this important question.
2. What would you say are the most important things in our society today? Why are they so important? (6-7)
3. The Reformation brought Christianity back to these great truths: *Scripture alone*, through *Christ alone*, by *grace alone*, through *faith alone*. How might these four truths be summed up as: *Glory to God alone*? (7-9)  
Every part of our lives should be lived to the glory of God. “This is the logical implication of the other four points, a call to a radical vision of God-centered living in all of life’s facets.” (9)
4. Read Romans 11:36. How does this verse help you with your desire to glorify God? (9-10)  
Take the group through the three “forms” Dr. Hannah brings out on page 9. Tell them this may not lead them yet to glorify God, but it is a necessary starting point.
5. Read Exodus 33:12-23 and 34:6-9. Moses starts out by arguing with God and then asks Him to show him His glory. What does God do instead (33:19)? And what is the result (34:8)? (10-11)  
God allows Moses to only see only His back (by which He indicates He will show Moses a glimpse of His Goodness). Even seeing this little bit of God was enough to put Moses on His face before God, no longer arguing but pleading.
6. The chief end of man is to glorify God. We might say that the chief end of Satan is to get even with God. What, then, is the chief end of God? (11-17)  
This is hard for people to grasp. God’s chief end is to glorify Himself. He is the only One who can do that and not be accused of being an egotist. God’s nature is to love, and He has so much of it He desires to share it with us. So, when we glorify Him, He pours out more of His love in a reciprocating way. To prove this, take the group through the three objections Edwards gives.
7. What difference would it make to life if God did not exist? (17)  
First of all, nothing would exist. But, this is a philosophical question. Life would have no meaning at all. Law would have no purpose since it would be man-made and could be changed by any whim. There would be no difference if you hunted and then ate a deer or if you hunted and ate your neighbor. That sounds ridiculous, but if we are no different than the animals, then we can treat each other like the animals do.
8. There are places on earth where no man has ever walked. These places are filled with beautiful flowers and scenery never seen by anyone. Why does God keep places like this flourishing year after year when no one will be there to enjoy it? (18-19)

This is the whole point. God created all this for Him to enjoy! If we get to enjoy it, we are then able to praise Him for it. By both of these situations He is glorified. He sees reflected in that beauty His own being and abilities. We see in it His attributes and power. We see a Creator Who has great creativity and One who cares about what He has created.

9. Dr. Hannah makes the statement: "God created us so he could see himself in us." Explain what he means. (19-22)

God created us so we could reflect His glory as we live lives in the image of Jesus. This, of course, was done perfectly before the Fall. Jesus came to restore the glory of the creation lost in the Fall. The job of His Holy Spirit after the Fall is to make us once again reflect the glory of Christ by our reflecting His image (Romans 8:29-30).

10. Is there anything wrong with our seeking to be happy? (23-24)

Not at all! The importance is what you find our happiness in. If we seek to find our happiness in God and the things of God, we can find true happiness. If we seek to find them in what man has perverted in God's creation, we will not.

11. What, then, pleases God and what does not? (24-27)

The obvious answer is sin displeases God as keeps us from reflecting His image and glory. Sin is not simply breaking God's law. His law is the representation of His character, and therefore, sin is personal. Sin personally offends God. Knowing this should change everything about how we live.

12. What difference is there in how a person can glorify God when he or she becomes a believer? (27-33)

Being a believer makes all the difference in the world! At salvation, God's Holy Spirit enters our lives and begins making changes. It is only through these changes that God begins to see His image reflected in us. "Since God is only pleased with the perfections that He alone possesses and since these have been granted to us through the Holy Spirit, the believer can glorify God. God is glorified when He sees Himself in the character of the believer." (32)

13. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Philippians 2:12-13. In what ways can we glorify God, and whose responsibility is it? (33-40)

We are talking about a lifestyle. To glorify God in our eating and drinking means to glorify Him in the most common and mundane things we do. So, if we do it in the simple times, we must do it in everything. Paul added, in the second passage, we do these things knowing it is God the Holy Spirit Who is at work inside us to make the necessary changes and to empower us to carry out these changes so we will reflect His glory in *all* we do.

From here, go over the specific areas Dr. Hannah brings up on pages 23-33.

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

## APPLICATION

John Piper has made the well-known statement: "God is most glorified in me when I am are most satisfied in Him." How satisfied (or content) are you in Who God is and what He has done and given you? What changes do you need to make in your life to be content in Him and not the things of the world? Make a plan to begin these changes.

## For Further Study

*The Secret of Contentment.* William Barclay. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2010.

*Discontentment: Why Am I So Unhappy?* Lou Priolo. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2012.

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