



# **BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

---

## Purpose

---

## 1 INTRODUCTION

What is the meaning of life?

The answer to this question has plagued mankind from the beginning of time.

Let's take that question a step further. What is the meaning of **your** life? What gives **you** purpose and direction? Most importantly, what does God say your purpose should be?

God's word makes the answer to these questions clear. The purpose of all creation is that all things, at all times, should glorify Him.

There are numerous verses in the Bible that show God's zeal for His own glory.

READ the following verses and take brief notes about the purpose of life as explained in the text:

Isaiah 43:6-7

Matthew 5:16

John 12:27-28

1 Corinthians 10:31

1 Peter 4:11

---

## 2 WHAT DOES GOD'S GLORY LOOK LIKE?

What does it mean to glorify God? Let's look at how the word "glory" is used in the Scriptures to help us understand.

### ***A. Splendor of Shining Light***

God's glory is an actual brilliant shining light or some other visible manifestation that indicates the presence God.

In the following verses, what were the visible manifestations of the glory of God?



Exodus 40:34



Matthew 17:1-5



Acts 7:55

Right now, you are sitting in some sort of light. Either the light from a lightbulb, or the light from the sun. The light you are utilizing to see is what is emanating from the light source. In other words, you don't stare at the actual bulb itself, rather what comes from the bulb. The light of the bulb gives evidence that the bulb is doing its job.

In the same way, we don't see God. We see what emanates from Him. We see His creation and we see His works. These things tell us how amazing our God is! They bring Him glory!

### ***B. Reputation and Fame***

God's glory here literally means "heavy" or "weighty." The word in this sense refers to something that causes a person to carry weight with others; that which is impressive about a person.

In the following verses, what was impressive about Jacob and Joseph?

🕒 Genesis 31:1 (Jacob)

🕒 Genesis 45:13 (Joseph)

If it is said, "Jimmy has made a 'name' for himself," we wouldn't be talking about the actual name "Jimmy." What we would mean to say is that Jimmy's life and actions have given him a reputation. He's known for something.

In same way, God has made a "Name." Scripture often talks about "the Name of the Lord." This simply means that God's awesome works have given Him a reputation and fame. The more we make Him known and the more we spread the fame of His Name, the more we bring Him glory.

---

### **3 A WORKING DEFINITION OF GOD'S GLORY**

When we speak of people glorifying God, we are referring to loving God and living in a way that His qualities or characteristics are displayed through our lives. As we do this, He is glorified or praised. That which is impressive about Him is displayed.

READ 1 Peter 2:9-10.

- ① What significance does this have in your daily life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ① In what kinds of situations or settings does this apply?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ① Give an example to illustrate your answer.

Understanding that God has designed all things for His glory, continue the study to learn how God has designed His glory to be displayed.

---

### **4 HOW GOD'S GLORY IS DISPLAYED**

#### **A. THROUGH JESUS**

The best way God has made His glory known is through the life of His Son, Jesus Christ.

John 1:14 says,

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

John goes on to say in John 1:18,

*“No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”*

When Jesus lived on earth, He lived a perfect life. In doing so, He showed us exactly what God looks like. He perfectly displayed His love and His commitment to truth. He was literally the hands, feet, and voice of God.

No other person who has lived on Earth has ever done a better, more accurate job of bringing God glory than Jesus Christ.

### **B. IN CREATION**

Isaiah 6:3 says,

*"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

READ Psalm 19:1.

📌 What are some things in creation that display the knowledge of God?

READ Romans 1:18-23.

📌 What two qualities of God are displayed through creation?

### **C. THROUGH THE CHURCH**

Paul reveals something important in the book of Ephesians.

READ Ephesians 3:21.

📌 In this verse, where does God reveal that He will bring Himself glory?

📌 How might a church bring God glory?

#### **D. THROUGH PEOPLE**

As creation reveals something of God, people also reveal something of God, but to a greater degree. People were created in God's image to glorify Him. We are to what is true of God in our thoughts, words, and actions. People reflect God's nature because we are created in his image.

Genesis 1:27 says,

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

Our continued existence is not for us, but for God's glory.

Colossians 1:16 says,

*"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."*

When we are living according to God's design God is pleased, glorified, and we are satisfied. However, most people do not endeavor to find satisfaction in God and thereby glorify Him.

- List some things you see in our culture that people pursue other than God and his glory. What are the effects of those choices?

---

## 5 CONCLUSION

Though our sin hinders us from bringing God glory, the gospel has restored our ability and gives us the strength to make this our life's purpose! Through the gospel, God is making us more like Jesus.

Making us like Christ is how God enables us to now live for His glory. The word "likeness" in v. 29 refers to the outward expression of an inward essence or nature. Once we are justified (declared righteous - Romans 5:1) by faith in Christ, positionally we have the righteousness of Christ that qualifies us for fellowship with God now (Colossians 1:12) and eternally.

The truth we need to cling to is "all things" that "work together for good" (Rom. 8:28). God uses all the circumstances of our lives to accomplish our restored purpose- the "good" of making us like Christ. As we are transformed in our inner man to resemble the Lord Jesus, that inner change brings about a change of outward expression that reflects the character of Christ.

The image of God in us which was distorted by sin is now becoming more and more distinctly like Jesus Christ as we mature, grow, and change.

As this growth in godliness takes place we glorify God more and more. As we glorify God more and more, we begin to live according to his design no matter what the circumstances. We then begin to experience the fullness of life that God has promised. (John 10:10; 13:16,17; Matthew 11:28; James 1:25)

🗒 Circle the word that best describes your desire to glorify God?

**Never**

**Seldom**

**Sometimes**

**Often**

**Always**

🗒 When you are not choosing to glorify God, what most often do you find is your motivation in life?

🗒 In the space provided write out 1 Corinthians 10:31 and then memorize it.

---

## 6

### LIFE CHANGE

Make it your daily prayer that God would nurture within you a desire to live for His glory.

✎ Record some examples of how you can glorify God in the coming week at:

Home:

Work:

School:

Church:

MEMORIZE 1 Corinthians 10:31

✎ We all have multiple roles in our lives. Think about the major roles of your life. Maybe you are a parent, a co-worker, and a spouse. Now, write a paragraph describing how you can bring God more glory in each of your life roles.

#### **DIGGING DEEPER: (Recommended Books)**

“Desiring God” - John Piper

“Quest for More” - Paul Tripp

“Joy of Fearing God” - Jerry Bridges