



Grace Hill Church

Q: What is the Chief and Highest End of Humanity? A: Humanity's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him for ever. [Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor 10:31; Ps. 73:24–28; John 17:21–23.] Westminster Larger Catechism #1.

So God glorifies Himself toward the creatures also in two ways: 1. By appealing to their understanding. 2. In communicating Himself to their hearts, and in their rejoicing and delighting in, and enjoying, the manifestations which He makes of Himself... God is glorified not only by His glories been seen, but by its being rejoiced in. When those that see it delight in it, God is more glorified than if they only see it. His glory is then received by the whole soul, both by the understanding and by the heart. God made the world that He might communicate, and the creature receive, His glory; and that it might be received both by the mind and heart. He that testifies his idea of God's glory doesn't glorify God so much as he that testifies also his approbation of it and his delight in it. (Jonathan Edwards, Miscellanies, no 448.)

August 3, 2014

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. We have a goal of twenty percent of gifts going to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading

Matt 5.14-16 "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* they may see your good works and *give glory* to your Father who is in heaven.

Ex 9.16 But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.

Joshua 4.23-24 For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, 24 so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever."

1 Cor 8.5-6 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Is 43.5-7 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Is 66.18-19 "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, 19 and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, ... that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.

1 Cor 6.19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Cor 10.31-33 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Our Ultimate Purpose

1. *The Goodness of Purpose*
2. *The Biblical Answer of "The" Purpose*
3. *The Gospel in Terms of Glory*
4. *How We Live to the Purpose of the Glory of God*



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Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

Our Father, we confess our usual purpose is for our own glory. We think first of our name, power, comfort, approval. But that is not how You made us. That tramples Your glory in creating us, and rejects Your glory in redeeming us through the glory of Your son Jesus. Forgive us.

Father, we long to see and understand Your glory. Help us. We also desire not only to know it but to rejoice in Your glory. Lead us. Give us a confidence that in seeking and enjoying Your glory, You receive the praise You deserve, and in secondary consequence, we will receive more fulness than we possibly could find anywhere else. Please give us Your Spirit, give us Your Grace that we might grasp hold of Your glory and be able to testify to its beauty and wonder—the ultimate purpose of our lives.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 4.6)

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second Sunday, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

**Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb 13.20-21)

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to you yourself and the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Gospel in Terms of *Glory*:

We have all sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God (Rom 3.23)

We have exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things (Rom 1.23)

But Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature (Heb 1.3)

And For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 4.6)

And we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess 2.13-14)

So now, Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Rom 5.2)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Rom 8.18)

In the future, God's people will sing in heaven: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; (Rev 19.6-7)



Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth.

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