

The Glory of God

Romans 15:5-6

Our text refers to Christians “glorifying God.” What does that mean? Often we hear the phrase “Glory to God” but I sometimes wonder if Christians understand the significance. The Westminster Confession begins by stating, “*The chief end of man is to glorify God.*” There are two shades of meaning to the Greek word “doxozo” that is translated “glorify.”

(1). To recognize and honor another with words of praise.

The doxology begins, “*Praise God from whom all blessings flow . . .*”

(2). To reflect the character of another.

When a father says of his son, “You did me proud,” you might say the son glorified his father. “*I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do*” (John 17:4). Christ “glorified” His Father by reflecting the Father on earth.

Now the question is simple this morning? How do I glorify God in my life here on earth?

I. Accept your brother in Christ who is different than you . . .

This is the theme of Romans 14 and 15. At least five times Paul challenges us to this. “*Accept him whose faith is weak*” (14:1), “*Why do you look down on your brother*” (14:10), “*Stop passing judgment on one another*” (14:13), “*We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak*” (15:1), “*Accept one another then, as Christ accepted you*” (15:7).

(A). This requires a great deal of endurance (patience) . . .

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, *patience* . . . God gives to His children the ability to be patient with one another. He is the God of all patience.

(B). This requires a great deal of encouragement (comfort) . . .

Sometimes life becomes uncomfortable. Christ is sufficient and your Comforter.

II. Affirm your brother in Christ is as righteous as you . . .

The Apostle asks of God “*That you be likeminded one toward another*” (15:5).

This is the ultimate key to accepting your brother in Christ. Know that he is accepted by God just as you are accepted. How? Through justification by God’s grace. God makes a sinner acceptable through His Son Jesus Christ. If a person struggles in this life, or if the decisions and choices a believer makes are different, it is ultimately of no consequence regarding His right standing with God. Accept him. Support him.

III. Appreciate your brother in Christ as a gift to you . . .

The church is called the “body of Christ,” “the bride of Christ,” and the “Temple of the Holy Spirit.” We are one body and the Apostle says we are to have “one mouth” and “one mind.” This does not mean that Christians don’t disagree, but rather, that we all agree on one thing --- we are recipients of His grace, and we tell everyone.

IV Acknowledge God’s grace which has been given to you..

This is the culmination of what it means to glorify God. We worship Him. So, how do you glorify God? Live it out in your relationships and express it in your worship. “*Worship is giving to the Lord the glory that is due in response to what He has revealed to us and done to us through Jesus Christ His Son*” Oswald B. Milligan.

