

Teamwork in the Local Church
Lesson Three: The Goal to Glorify God
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Introduction: To God Be the Glory!

- A. Do we understand what it means to *glorify* God?
 - 1. To *magnify* Him: To enlarge His significance, lift up His importance, and call attention to His greatness (**Ps. 34:1-3; 113:4; 1 Chron. 29:10-13**).
 - 2. To *praise* Him: To express our approval and admiration of Him (**Psalm 106:1-2; 111:1-4ff.**).
 - 3. To *honor* Him: To highly esteem Him and show great respect and reverence for Him (**Rev. 4:9-11**).
- B. Our *number one goal* should be to glorify God in the church (**Eph. 3:20-21**).
 - 1. We are the instrument by which the glory of God is shown to the world!
 - 2. Our commitment must be to always give God the glory in all we do!

I. Keeping God “Front and Center.”

- A. Glory belongs wholly to God (**Rev. 19:1**).
 - 1. If brethren aren’t careful, they will place the preacher or elders “front and center” in the church instead of God! (**1 Cor. 1:11-15; 3:4-5, 21-23**).
 - 2. Our heart’s desire should be to give God the glory (**Ps. 86:12; 115:1**).
 - 3. Glory belongs to God forever and ever! (**Rev. 7:10-12; 1 Tim. 1:17**).
- B. Glorifying God in the church demands a *team* effort (**Rom. 15:5-6**).
 - 1. United, banded together as one, we “circle around” the one and only God, glorifying Him as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. *Whatever* we do, we do all to the glory of God.
 - 1. In *every* aspect of our worship, there is a deliberate effort made to give the glory to God (**Rev. 19:1-7; Ps. 100**).
 - 2. Preaching or teaching that seeks to glorify God above all (**Ps. 22:22**).
 - 3. Why we do the good works that we do (**John 15:8**).

II. Glorifying God in Our Worship.

- A. Prayers that praise!
 - 1. Those that lead prayer seeks to call attention to God’s greatness, not to themselves (**Mat. 6:5 / Ps. 35:18**).
 - 2. Our prayers demonstrate great reverence for God and contain many praises for what we appreciate about Him (**Mat. 6:9; Heb. 13:15**).
- B. Singing that magnifies God’s greatness.
 - 1. To glorify God in singing is to magnify His greatness by praising Him for His wonderful attributes and good works (**Ps. 96:1-6; 145**).
 - 2. Song leaders need to have a balance in the selection of songs; songs that teach, admonish (**Col 3:16**), *and* praise and magnify God (**Ps. 69:30**).
- C. To lift up Christ at the Lord’s Supper
 - 1. The Lord’s Supper is not a meal where Christians satisfy hunger, socialize, or seek to arouse their emotions.
 - 2. Not about looking at ourselves, but about making sure (“examine”) we honor Jesus in our hearts by remembering His sacrifice (**1 Cor. 11:24-28**).

3. A special time of admiration for Him, to lift up His importance, to give thanks for Him: “*Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us*”! (1 Cor. 5:7b)
- D. To demonstrate thanksgiving in our offering.
1. Some give to become materially rich (“Prosperity gospel” Mat. 13:22).
 2. Others boast in giving, seeking the glory of men (Mat. 6:2; Amos 4:5).
 3. Giving of our means on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2) is an opportunity to give to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:5/ 1 Chron. 29:17; Phil. 4:18).

III. Glorifying God in All Our Preaching and Teaching.

- A. The goal of every lesson should be to glorify God and *His* wisdom.
1. Teachers of the world lift *themselves* up as wise men and promote *their* doctrines instead of the doctrine of God (Jer 5:31; Mt 15:9; Col 2:20-23).
 2. Seeking *our* pleasure or entertainment is *not* glorifying God (2Tim 4:3).
 3. The aim is to magnify God’s wisdom above man’s (1 Cor. 2:1-7).
 4. Preaching *just the gospel* instead of our opinions reveals the righteousness of God and glorifies His power as supreme! (Rom 1:15-17).
- B. Preachers especially need to make sure God is glorified in the work they do.
1. Due to the public nature of a preacher’s work, an evangelist must work hard to give God the glory and not seek it for himself (1 Thes. 2:3-6).
 2. To speak of what *Christ* has accomplished through him (Rom. 15:18).
 3. The church must likewise give the glory to God (Acts 21:19-20a).

IV. Glorifying God in the Work We Do as a Church.

- A. Committed to the *spiritual* work God has given the church to do.
1. Many local churches desire to do the kind of work that *the world* views as valuable, desiring the glory of men more than wanting to glorify God.
 2. To *truly* glorify God, the local church must work as a team to fulfill the work *God* has given her to do (Evangelism, Edification, and Benevolence). (Mt. 28:19-20; Phil. 4:15 / Eph. 4:16; Acts 20:32 / Acts 2:44-45; 11:29).
 3. Let us honor God and His wisdom as superior to our own (Isa. 55:8-9).
- B. We give God the glory for all our achievements (Ps. 115:1).
1. No member should overshadow the greatness of God! (Ac 12:23; 3 Jn 9)
 2. Successful teamwork in the church requires recognition of where our gifts or talents came from – *by the grace of God* (Rom. 12:3-6a).
 3. Pride, jealousy, competition, and strife among brethren is resolved when everyone gives the glory of all achievements to God (1 Pet. 4:10-11).

V. Leading People to Glorify God instead of the Church.

- A. Our good works are ultimately meant to lead people to the Lord, not to us.
1. It does not matter how prominent we become, what name we achieve in the world, or what are attendance figures are.
 2. What truly matters is whether or not we have led people to glorify God (Mat. 5:16), whether we have helped others draw near to Him!
- B. When people are saved, it is “*to the praise of the glory of His grace.*”
1. Salvation made possible by the grace found in Christ (Eph. 1:5-6).
 2. Whenever a soul is saved, to God let us give the glory (1 Cor. 3:5-7).

Conclusion: What Will You Do to Bring Glory to God in His Church? Let Us Work as a Team to Fulfill the Goal to Glorify God Everyday!