



Knowledge of the HOLY ONE

A. Definition of Holy:

- There are two biblical words that define the fullness of God (all of his attributes and character in perfect harmony, balance and all that HE IS). The First is Holy and the Second is Glory.
- The Hebrew word for Holy means separateness! It refers to God's otherness!
- He is set apart or transcendent from all else
 - The Fullness of all that He is, SET APART
 - There is none like him
- He is set apart from anything morally impure

B. We respond to the Holiness of God through the 'fear of the Lord' 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (ESV), “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” ¹ **Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.**

C. Fearing God means:

- Standing in awe of Him!
Malachi 2:5, “My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name.”
- Growing Hatred of Sin!
Proverbs 8:13 (ESV), “The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.”

- People who are God-fearing are people who fear ‘being out of sync with God’ It is a trusting, a hiding in his awesome presence.

Jesus Delighted in the ‘fear of the Lord,’ (Isaiah 11:2-3)

God delights in those who ‘Fear Him” (Malachi 3:16-17)

Early Church walked in the Fear of the Lord (Acts 5:11-14)

D. Promises of the walking in the fear of the Lord

- Fear of the Lord is the ‘beginning of wisdom,’ Proverbs 1:7
- Fear of the Lord gives you understanding and knowledge of God, Proverbs 2:5
- Fear of the Lord prolongs your days, Proverbs 10:27
- The Fear of the Lord will be rewarded, Proverbs 13:13
- The Fear of the Lord brings confidence, and strength, Proverbs 13:13
- Fear of the Lord brings Life, Fountain of Life, Leads to Life, and brings healing to our bones, Prov 14:27, 19:23
- Fear of the Lord brings riches, honor, and Life, Proverbs 22:4
- Fear of the Lord helps us overcome sin, Proverbs 16:6

Glory

The word Glory means, weight or illumination. When the Holy One, the set apart one, is made manifest, goes forth like light or illumination, we use the word Glory. When he manifests his presence, it is weighty(authority) It is his ‘revealed excellence,’ his manifold perfections, his goodness that passes before us! God is not just wise and loving, but he is *gloriously* or surpassingly so. He is the best and greatest in every quality. He is not just important and worthy of our adoration, submission, and attention, but *gloriously* or supremely so. (He is infinitely more worthy of our adoration, submission, and attention than anyone or anything else). Every other being is “*less than nothing*” in comparison with his glory (cf. Isaiah 40:5, 15-17, 25). God’s glory is often expressed in the Scripture as blazing, blinding luminosity(Exodus 16:10), which conveys this concept of utter excellence and superlativeness. The unbearable brilliance of God also gets across the ultimate incomprehensibility of God to our finite minds.

“Fire of His Glory”

“Blazing Center of His Glory”

“All for His Glory”

- God made the created world for his glory (Psalm 19:1ff).
- God will heal the broken world with his glory (Isaiah 35:2).
- God made us for his glory (Isaiah 43:7).
- God saved us to praise his glory (Ephesians 1:12).
- God does everything for his own glory.
- When he judges, he does so for his own glory (Exodus 14:4).
- When he shows mercy, he does so for his own glory (Isaiah 48:11).

Therefore, we must do everything we do for his glory (1 Corinthians 10:31)

“God... is infinitely the greatest and best of beings. All things else, with regard to worthiness, importance, and excellence, are perfectly as nothing in comparison to him... The ultimate [goal] of God’s works is... *the glory of God.*”

– Jonathan Edwards

“The Biblical word ‘glory’ is (Heb) *kavod* [which] means heavy, weighty, significant... The ‘glory of the Lord’ indicates the brilliance that is connected with all God’s virtues and his self-revelation in nature and grace... As an object of loving adoration it is called his [*beauty*]. As an object of our reverent submission it is called his *majesty*. As an object of our joyous gratitude it is called his [*worthiness*].”

– Herman Bavinck

“The Father... Son... and Holy Spirit glorify each other... Self-giving love is the dynamic currency of the Trinitarian life of God. The persons within God exalt, commune with, and defer to one other... Each harbors the others at the center of his being. In constant movement of overture and acceptance each person envelopes and encircles the others. [So] Creation is neither a necessity nor an accident. Instead, given God’s interior life that overflows with regard for others, we might say creation is an act that was *fitting* for God... In creation God graciously made room in the universe for other kinds of beings. God’s splendor [glory] becomes clearer whenever the Son of God powerfully spends himself in order to cause others to flourish... Jesus Christ’s pattern of life in the world reproduces the inner life of God.”

– Cornelius Plantinga

What is the chief end of man?

“To Glorify God and enjoy him forever”

- We glorify God by enjoying him forever!
- God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him!

Glorify God: Praise him and adore him!

1. It means to (mentally) *recognize supreme excellence* in him. It is to acknowledge that he is the measure and standard of all things, the best and the greatest of beings in the universe.

a) He is greater than all other gods (1 Chr 16:25); he is the source of everything in creation (Ps 104:24).

b) There is no definition of goodness, or love, or power, or wisdom except in God. All else is good, loving, powerful, or wise only in relationship to him.

c) Nothing deserves our deepest respect and honor more than the Lord, before whom we should all tremble and fear (1 Chr 16:30).

2. It means to (volitionally) *ascribe ultimate value* to him. It is to give him the centrality or priority in our lives.

a) We are to give God his “*due*” (1 Chr 16:29), that is, we are to recognize his value or ‘*worthiness*’ (1 Chr 16:25). His value is absolute, greater than all other objects that might be worshipped (1 Chr 16:25-26).

b) In the simplest terms possible, to glorify God means to make him the most important thing in your life.

i. It means to trust him more than anything else and to obey him unconditionally.

ii. It means everything else is judged by whether it enhances (or detracts) from his honor, or from your relationship to him.

c) Once we recognize his ultimate beauty, we realize that we must be willing to pay anything to have him and to honor him. That is how much he is “worth.”

3. It means to (emotionally) *find your ultimate joy or pleasure* in him. It is to find him your deepest satisfaction.

a) We notice in the texts that to glorify him, to praise him, and to enjoy him are different aspects of the same action.

i. We find joy in his glory-presence (1 Chr 16:27).

ii. The Psalmist gets joy when he meditates on the glory of God revealed in his works of creation (Psalm 104: 34).

iii. Even more remarkably, God himself gets joy as he surveys his own glory in the works of creation (Psalm 104:31).

b) Joyful singing also comes as we survey his glory revealed in the works of salvation and redemption (1 Chr 16:23).

c) Thanks, joy, and adoration unite in the act of “glorifying” in his praise (1 Chr 16:35) — which seems to mean that we experience some kind of fullness and greatness as we glorify him.

d) To acknowledge his glory is to rejoice in him jubilantly as the very trees of the wood will do when he comes to rule them (1 Chr 16:31-33). This aspect of glorifying God is to see God’s *beauty*. David speaks of seeing God’s beauty (Ps 27:4) and glory (Ps 63:2-5) almost synonymously.

- To find an object beautiful is to enjoy it or find it satisfying in itself.

When you sit gazing in wonder at the ocean or the mountains you don’t do so as an instrument to reach some other goal. The very sight of the ocean or the mountains is fulfilling in itself.

- The Bible, of course, says that this is because the created universe is giving you glimpses of God’s glory. See Psalm 19.

Summary

- To glorify God is not to go to God mainly to get his help, forgiveness, guidance or strength but to get him.
- It is to move beyond a general belief in God to *knowing* his glory. This comes when the Holy Spirit gives you a sense of his beauty — when thinking about who he is and what he has done becomes pleasing to the mind and satisfying to the heart *in itself*.

- Other subordinate joys become means to the end of serving and knowing God. In other words, we don't obey God mainly to get health, peace, comfort or success, but to mainly give him pleasure and honor.

- Why? Because we have put our joy and happiness *into* his joy and happiness. Making him happy *is* what gives us joy.

For as God is infinitely the greatest Being, so he is... infinitely the most beautiful and excellent. All the beauty to be found throughout the whole creation is but a reflection of the diffused beams of that Being who hath an infinite fullness of brightness and glory. God is the foundation of all being and all beauty. – Jonathan Edwards

We are all starved for the glory of God, not self. No one goes to the Grand Canyon to increase self-esteem. Why do we go? Because there is greater healing for the soul in beholding splendor than there is in beholding self... The point is this: We were made to know and treasure the glory of God above all things; and when we trade that treasure for images, everything is disordered. The sun of God's glory was made to shine at the center of the solar system of our soul. And when it does, all the planets of our life are held in their proper orbit. But when the sun is displaced, everything flies apart. The healing of the soul begins by restoring the glory of God to its flaming, all-attracting place at the center.

– John Piper

“For the earth will be filled with the Knowledge of the Glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” –Hab. 2:14

Therefore...

- We glorify God by enjoying him forever!

Beholding Glory

“And we all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” -2 Cor. 3:18

Questions:

- 1. What is your favorite aspect of God's Glory and Why?**
- 2. In light of the teaching tonight what do you want to see changed in your everyday life?**