

# Moving Back to a Christ-Centered Christianity

## † Our purpose as Christians

- The purpose of us as Christians is to glorify God by being a platform to the world that displays His glory.
  - Everyday by your life style you push something
    - Everyday your actions either push people to Christ or away from Him
    - We are designed to be screens that portray Christ's glory
  - What does glory mean?
    - Webster- glory- praise, honor
    - We see glory shown to things all of the time
      - We might go to a play or a concert and when it is over what do we do (APPLAUSE). We are giving praise to the people who entertained us.
      - We might invest time on an assignment for school and get a "Good job" from our teacher. We are getting the glory for our efforts.
      - We might excel in a sport or a game and get an MVP trophy or named to an all-tournament team. We are getting the glory for our accomplishments.
  - Why should we live for God's glory? - God's glory is the central focus of everything He does. God's ultimate desire in everything He does is to display His indescribable glory.
    - Lets look at the purpose of some major events in scripture
      - Creation- We were created for God's glory
        - "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

have **created for my glory**, whom I formed and made.”- Isaiah 43: 6-7  
ESV

- Christ’s incarnation- to display the glory of God to the world
    - “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘**Glorify to God in the highest**, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.’”- Luke 2: 13-14 ESV
  - Christ’s Second Coming- Christ is coming back to receive glory
    - “They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might, when **He comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed**, because our testimony to you was believed.”- 1 Thessalonians 1: 9-10 ESV
  - The goal of our becoming more like Christ is for us to be different and in doing so bring glory to Him
    - “And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the **glory and praise of God.**” – Philippians 1: 9-11 ESV
      - So how can we glorify God to the max?
        - “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” – John Piper
- ‡ I-Centered Christianity- the type that most of us live and don’t even realize it

- Who here feels like they go to God over and over and promise to do better in a particular area only to fail and return? (show of hands)
- The only person who successfully pulled off the Christian life was Jesus. He was so good at it they named it after Him.
- You buy in to the lie that “I can do it on my own.”
  - Whatever it may be
    - Desiring God
    - Defeating sin
    - Living the Christian life
- Christ is the One who leads us to live lives that reflect the glory and greatness of God.
  - “the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to the saints is. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”- Colossians 1: 26b-27 ESV
  - “And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of **righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God.” – Philippians 1: 9-11 ESV
  - “I can do all things **through Christ** who strengthens me.”- Philippians 4: 13 ESV
- † Submission- we must die to the I-way of living for us to thrive as a Christian and give glory to God
  - “I have been crucified with Christ. It is **no longer I who live**, but **Christ who lives in me**. And the life I live now in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”- Galatians 2: 20 ESV
  - Holy Spirit is available when we stop trying and start dying.
- † Conclusion- We must pray for the Holy Spirit to work in us because on our own we have no hope of living lives that glorify God!
  - “Yes, Lord, walking in the way of Your truth, we wait eagerly for You, for Your name and your renown are the desire of our souls.”- Isaiah 26: 8