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Section: Doctrine of God

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q8. What is the glory of God?**

The glory of God is His holiness, infinite beauty, and the greatness of His limitless perfection shining out to all of creation.

* **Introduction**

When it comes to the glory of God, we should look to the holy Scriptures to give us a helpful description.

One’s glory is directly tied to one’s nature.

**Psalm 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Creation is reflecting God’s glory.

* **Holiness**

**Isaiah 6:3** And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

God’s holiness is His unique set-apartness. It is the sum of His perfections and the sum of what makes God wholly unique—wholly above us, better than us, wholly “other” than us.

We must be holy in order to see the Lord.

**Hebrews 12:14** Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

**Isaiah 6:4-7**

* **Beauty**

Divine beauty is the full display of God’s character and attributes from all eternity.

He is beautiful because of who He is.

“[God] is supreme being, supreme truth, supreme goodness, and also the apex of unchanging beauty.” – Herman Bavinck

Therefore, God’s characteristics and attributes are all beautiful because they are essential to His nature.

**Psalm 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

* **Limitless perfection**

God is self-existent, full, and without imperfections.

That means that whatever God is, He is perfection because all definitions of perfection are measured against Him. He is the standard by which we even know what perfection looks like!

“Manifest in God’s glory is his sublime greatness …” – Herman Bavinck

* **Shining out**

**Habakkuk 2:14** “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

The glory of God radiates from His holiness throughout the entire world; these things testify of God.

* **Who values God’s glory?**

**Romans 1:18-25**

**Isaiah 42:8** “I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.”

**Matthew 5:45** “… For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

**Exodus 33:18-23**

Without Christ, we cannot see or understand who God is. Our minds are veiled to His glory.

**Ezekiel 36:26** “And I [God] will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

**1 Corinthians 13:12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

To those who do not submit to the King of the Universe, Jesus is just a historical figure who is no different than any other man who has lived. And to those people, God’s glory is like that; it makes no sense.

* **Putting glory on display as Christians**

**Matthew 5:14-16** “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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."

* **Application and conclusion**

**Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.