

Section: Doctrine of God

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**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** And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

* **Beauty**

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

He is beautiful because of who He is.

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

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!

**Herman Bavinck**: “Manifest in God’s glory is his sublime greatness

* **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** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.  Claiming to be wise, they became fools,  and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,  because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**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** Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” 21And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock,and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

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.