

Section: Doctrine of God

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**Q15. Why did God make us?**

God made us to glorify Him, so His glory would be known and praised.

* **Introduction**

**Q1. Who Is God?** God is the almighty Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of everything. He is perfect, and the standard by which all things are measured.

**1689 Baptist Confession of Faith**: “In the beginning, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was pleased to demonstrate the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness to create or make the world and everything in it, both visible and invisible, in six days.”

* **God Made Us**

**Genesis 1:26a, 27** 26Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. 27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

**1689 Baptist Confession of Faith**: “After God made all other creatures, he created humanity. Humans were created male and female, with rational and immortal souls, which makes them able to live a life for God, which they were created to do. They were created in the image of God, with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness. They were created with the law of God written in their hearts and the power to fulfill it. However, it was possible for them to disobey the law, since they were left to the liberty of their own will, which could change.”

**Revelation 4:11** “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

**Revelation 4:11** (KJV) … for thy pleasure they are and were created.

**John Gill**: “God is the first cause, and the last end of all things; by his power they are made, and according to his will, and for his own glory, and therefore [God] is worthy of such doxology.”

**Isaiah 43:7** “everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

* **God Made Us to Glorify Him**

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

**Genesis 11:4** Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves ...”

**Isaiah 48:11** “For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.”

The doctrine of Soli Deo Gloria—glory to God alone—teaches that all glory is due to God alone and no other.

**Jonathan Edwards**: “God is glorified not only by His glory being seen, but by its being rejoiced in.”

**Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 1**: What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

**Romans 9:22-23** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

* **So His Glory Would Be Known and Praised**

**1689 Baptist Confession of Faith**: “Everything we need to know about God’s glory and our salvation, faith, and life is either explicitly stated in or necessarily inferred by the Bible. Nothing should ever be added to the Bible.”

**Scripture teaching about God’s glory:** Exodus 14:4, 18; Ezekiel 20:5-9; 1 Samuel 12:19-23; 2 Samuel 7:23; 1 Kings 8:41-45; Malachi 2:2; John 4:34; John 7:18; John 17:4; John 12:27-28; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11; Matthew 5:16; Psalm 23:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Revelation 21:23

**The 1689 Baptist Confession**: “God works all things according to the counsel of his own unchangeable and completely righteous will for his own glory.”

**1 Corinthians 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**Q16. How should we glorify God?**

We glorify God by trusting in Jesus, enjoying Him, treasuring Him, growing in our knowledge of Him, believing His words, obeying His commands, and by showing and telling the world how great He is.

* **Trusting in Jesus**

**Hebrews 11:6** (NASB) … without faith it is impossible to please Him …

**Hebrews 11:1** faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**Jeremiah 17:7-8** “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

* **Enjoying Him**

**Psalm 37:4** Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

**Psalm 16:5-11**The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**C.S. Lewis**: “... it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

**John Piper**: “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”

* **Treasuring Him**

**Philippians 3:8a** Indeed, I count **everything as loss** because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

**John Piper**: “By treasuring Christ above all else so that everything else in his life is as nothing by comparison. I count everything—money, as loss; food, as loss; beauty, as loss; friends, as loss; family, as loss; job and success, as loss; graduation, as loss in comparison with the treasure that Christ has become for me.”

**Philippians 3:7** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

**Matthew 6:21** “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**Psalm 119:24** Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

**Psalm 119:47-48** for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

**Psalm 119:92** If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

**Psalm 119:174** I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.

* **Practical ways to treasure Jesus**
1. Stewardship
2. Memorization
3. Spiritual Disciplines
* **Growing in Our Knowledge of Him**

**Jeremiah 9:24** (NKJV) “But let him who glories glory in this, that he **understands and knows Me**, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the Lord.

We cannot be flippant in our understanding of God. If we are flippant, then we will have bad theology, which in turn leads to bad doxology.

**1689 Baptist Confession of Faith**: “By this faith, Christians believe to be true whatever is revealed in the Word as having the authority of God himself. They also recognize an excellency in the Word above all other writings and all things in the world, since it teaches the glory of God in his attributes, the excellency of Christ in his nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in his workings and operations. Faith enables them to entrust their souls to this truth that they believe. The confession also states this: The Bible is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.”

**2 Peter 3:18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

* **Believing His Words**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**2 Peter 1:20-21** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

* **Obeying His Commands**

**Deuteronomy 11:1** “You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.”

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

**John 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

True obedience is an obedience that comes out of a made-new heart and life that seeks to glorify God, abides in Christ, and is being transformed by the Spirit’s sanctifying power.

* **Showing and Telling the World How Great He Is**

Progressive sanctification is growing in holiness through obedience to the Lordship of Jesus and His word from a right heart. By grace, it is a lifelong process powered by the Holy Spirit to change believers to become more like Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

* **Conclusion**

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