

WEEKLY REFLECTION

According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, the meaning of life—or the chief end of man—is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Only God alone is everlasting, only He will truly satisfy. But what does it mean for us to glorify Him? How is this related to our enjoyment of Him?

To fully understand God's glory, we must first understand His holiness. In Isaiah 6:3, the seraphim declare God's holiness: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" God alone is holy, He is set apart. There is no One like Him—before Him no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Him. (Isa. 43:10b) He is the absolute source and standard of goodness. He alone is perfectly just, perfectly loving, unique in His majesty. Holy.

John Piper tells us that God's holiness is His infinite value as the "absolutely unique, morally perfect, permanent person that [He] is". His glory is the "manifest beauty of [His] holiness." Romans 11:36 and Isaiah 43:7 attribute all the glory to God. It tells us that we were made for God's glory—therefore it is right for us to praise and to worship Him, to make known who He is.

Some may balk at the idea that we live to praise and glorify God, as if He lives off our worship. But we must understand: even without God, we naturally search for things to praise and glorify. We find that when we do so, our expression of praise and adoration completes the experience of worship. It heightens, not takes away from it.

It is *right* for us to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. If God is the greatest good, if we cannot understand what "good" means apart from Him—all attempts to divert this praise would be unjust deprivation. Thus, church, we implore you: sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 95:2) Glorify His name forever.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

If you could do absolutely anything, anywhere in the world—no limitations at all!—what and where would it be? Who might you take with you? Why would you want to do so, and would it bring you true contentment? Why or why not?

QUESTION TWO:

Why is it so hard for us to accept that God is the greatest good? Why do we keep trying to find meaning away from Him?

QUESTION THREE:

What are some ways that we can know, glorify, and enjoy God in our everyday life? What might you do differently this week, to increase your understanding of God as you seek to glorify and enjoy Him?

Practice sharing God with the members of your life group as well. How would you encourage a brother or sister in Christ to seek enjoyment in Him? How might you glorify God as you share your enjoyment of Him to someone who doesn't yet know Him?