



## Loving God and Glorifying God

- How do the chief command of God and the chief end of man relate?
  - The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
  - Key elements to the answer:
    - What is God's glory?
    - How do we glorify God?

## Understanding God's Glory

- Moses: Show me your glory
  - **Exodus 33:18** Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"
  - 19** And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

## Understanding God's Glory

- **Exodus 34:5** The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with [Moses] as he called upon the name of the LORD.
- 6** Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

## Understanding God's Glory

**7** who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

## Understanding God's Glory

- What did God "show" Moses?
  - His goodness
  - His name (which signifies his character)
- In what did God's goodness consist?
  - Gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and truth, forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin, punishes the guilty.

## Understanding God's Glory



- David: God's glory in the heavens
  - **Psalm 19:1** The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
    - The heavens declare the power, wisdom, and immensity of God.

## Understanding God's Glory



- **Psalm 97:6** The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples have seen His glory.
  - Righteousness = measuring up to a standard (Lev. 19:26; Deut. 25:15)
  - God's righteousness is His self-consistency.
  - The constancy and consistency of the cosmos reveals God's self-consistency.

## Understanding God's Glory



- What is God's glory?
  - The primary sense of God's "glory" is ***the unique excellence of His character and being.***
  - This sense is reflected in the NT as well.
    - **2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## Understanding God's Glory



- The "knowledge of the glory of God" that we see in Christ is the knowledge of the character of the Father whom Jesus revealed to us.
- The unique excellence of the Father is perfectly reflected in the Son.
- To see Jesus is to see the Father.

## Understanding God's Glory



- Additional Senses of God's glory
  - The visible display of God's unique excellencies as fire or light, frequently in a cloud
    - **Exodus 24:17** And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top.
    - **Ezekiel 10:4** ... and the temple was filled with the cloud and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.

## Understanding God's Glory



- His reputation for and created by His unique excellence
  - **Psalm 102:15** So the nations will fear the name of the LORD And all the kings of the earth Your glory.
  - **Psalm 148:13** Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.

## Understanding God's Glory



- The praise His unique excellence deserves
  - **Isaiah 42:8** "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.
  - **Psalm 29:2** Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

## Our Chief End: Glorifying God



- When we say the chief end of man is to glorify God, we mean that the ultimate purpose for which God created us is
  - to live in such a way that displays the unique excellence of God for others to see and praise (Mat. 5:16; 1 Cor. 10:31), and
  - to offer praise personally to God for his unique excellence (Psa. 50:23; Rom. 15:6).

## Loving and Glorifying God



- Love for God is the dynamic that powers a life lived for the glory of God.
- When we love God, we are passionate about rightly representing Him and helping others to see His magnificence.

## Loving God and Holiness



- If Loving God is the chief command, how does it relate to the command "Be holy, for I am Holy?"
- Key elements to the answer:
  - What is holiness?
  - What is God's holiness?
  - What does it mean for us to be holy?
  - How does holiness relate to loving God?

## Understanding Holiness



- Scripture teaches us what holiness is through a series of pictures:
  - Holy day (Gen. 2:3)
  - Holy dirt (Exod. 3:5)
  - Holy assembly (Exod. 12:16; Ezek. 46:3, 9)
  - Holy firstborn offspring (Exod. 13:2, 11-12)
  - Use of the term "separate" (Lev. 10:10; 11:45-46; 20:26; Ezek. 22:26)

## Understanding Holiness



- Holiness is Separateness
  - Separateness *from* the common and ordinary
  - Separateness *unto* special use and relationship to God

## Understanding God's Holiness



- Divine Holiness is God's transcendent separateness from all things
  - **Isaiah 57:15** For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell *on* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

## Understanding God's Holiness



- What is it that makes God transcendentally separate from all things?
  - The unique excellence of His character and being.
  - Thus, God's holiness is His transcendent separateness from all things due to the unique excellence of His character and being.

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## Holiness in Humanity



- God commands faulty, frail, imperfect humans to be holy.
  - **1 Peter 1:15** but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;
  - 16** because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

## Holiness in Humanity



- 1 Peter 1:16 is a quotation taken from Leviticus 19:2.
  - **Leviticus 19:2** "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'

## Holiness in Humanity



- Behavior addressed in Leviticus 19
  - honor one's parents (v. 3)
  - keep the Sabbaths (v. 3)
  - avoid idolatry (v. 4)
  - follow the rules for fellowship offerings carefully (vv. 5-8)
  - care for the poor (vv. 9-10)

## Holiness in Humanity



- respect personal property and tell the truth (v. 11-12)
- treat others with the same consideration you would desire (vv. 13-14)
- care about justice (vv. 15-16)
- love others as yourself (vv. 17-18)

### Holiness in Humanity



- Holiness in humanity is separateness or being separate
  - From the common and ordinary way the sinful world operates
  - Unto relationship with God and living the way He operates.
- Holiness in humanity is separateness unto God due to reflecting the unique excellence of His character in our lives.

### Position, Possession, Pursuit



- Holiness begins in salvation
  - **1 Cor. 6:11** And such were some of you: but you are washed, you are sanctified, ...
    - We are set apart unto God as His special possession and people – positional holiness
    - We are made pure – personal holiness
- Holiness continues after salvation
  - **Hebrews 12:14** Pursue peace with all men, and the holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.

### Position, Possession, Pursuit



- Holiness deepens in entire sanctification
  - We respond to the new life He has given us with grateful, self-sacrifice as an act of worship (Romans 12:1; 6:11-13)
  - God responds to our self-sacrifice by entirely sanctifying us and filling us with His Spirit (1 Thess. 5:23-24; Eph. 5:18)

### Position, Possession, Pursuit



- Holiness grows unto perfection until glorification.
  - 2 Corinthians 7:1 “perfecting holiness in the fear of God”
  - Phil. 3:13-14 “I count not myself to have attained [resurrection perfection] ... but I press toward the mark of the high calling of God [unto holiness; 1 Thess. 4:7]”

### Loving God and Holiness



- When we love God, we self-sacrificially
  - Delight in Him
  - Rejoice in serving Him
  - Desiring continually to please Him
  - Seek our happiness in Him, and
  - Thirst day and night for a fuller enjoyment of Him
- The natural consequence of loving God is holiness – separateness unto God.