

How to Live for God's Glory  
1 Corinthians 10:31-33

Good morning! We've reached the end of our series, "Alone Again Naturally". We've been talking about the Five Solas of the Reformation. Again, let me share with you what those Five Solas are: Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia and last but not the least, Soli Deo Gloria. Today, I'm going to talk about the last one.

Now, this last one is actually also the first one. It's like bookends where it holds all the other four Solas together. Because, ultimately, everything we do, think, or say, is to the glory of God.

Have you heard of the Westminster Catechism or Confession? It's a statement of beliefs adopted by Presbyterians in 1647. It is actually mentioned in the Reformation Time Line which we distributed to you recently. It's in a Q&A format. The first Question is "What is the chief end of man?" The answer is "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever". Guess no one will dispute that.

And so, this message is entitled "How to Live for God's Glory" taken from 1 Corinthians 10:31-33. Let us read together this passage: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved."

Glory, in Filipino or Spanish, is Gloria. I have a classmate in high school. Her last name is Gloria. And her parents gave her the first name of...Gloria. Gloria Gloria. Cool, right?

So, this message is about giving glory to God through our lives. For what purpose? So that we may bring others to Jesus. So that others may be attracted to Jesus through us.

First, what is the glory of God? We use this all the time. In the Lord's Prayer we say the final phrase "For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever." What does that mean? What is the glory of God?

The most common Old Testament word for "glory" in Hebrew is Kabod, which can mean heavy. The word was used in Genesis 31 for animals heavy-laden with gold. The word also refers to the shining light of God's presence. That glory was the cloud by day and the fiery pillar by night that led the people of God through the wilderness. Later it was the light that filled the tabernacle and the temple. Exodus 24:17 tells us that God's glory was like a consuming fire on the top of Mount Sinai. Thomas Watson, the great Puritan preacher, called glory "the sparkling of Deity."

When we pass into the New Testament we meet a Greek word—doxa, from which we get the English word doxology. The Greek word has the idea of honor, dignity, and reputation. That last word—reputation—brings us very close to the meaning of "glory" in 1 Corinthians 10:31. Dr. Charles Ryrie explained that God's glory is his reputation in the world. To live for God's glory means to live so that God's reputation is enhanced, not diminished.

Of course, God's reputation is permanent and never changes. Someone who goes inside a dark room and says, "The sun isn't shining" doesn't change the fact that the sun always shines. The same way with God's reputation. It only changes in the thinking of other people based on the way they see how we live our lives. That's why Jesus says, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

It's how we conduct our lives in this world that enhances or diminishes God's reputation to others. Remember, we are little lights that are supposed to reflect the greater light which is Jesus. If your light is bright, then others notice and say, "I can see Jesus in that person". But when your light is flickering or kind of dim or may be gone totally, then others notice, too, and say, "I wonder whether Jesus is in that person."

Apart from good deeds, there are times when God's glory shines best in our lives. Look at this verse, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Cor. 4:7)

What we just read about – God wants to put his Spirit inside of us, these jars of clay. Basically, you're just a human Tupperware. You're a container for God. Here's what the verse says right after that verse: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." (2 Cor. 4:8)

God says, "It's when you're going through tough times that I want to shine out of your life to show my glory." Remember one time when I took out a toothpaste tube and squeezed it and out came the toothpaste? Let me repeat the point I made through that illustration: when you get under pressure, what comes out of your life is whatever's inside of you. If you are filled with anger, when the pressure's on, anger's going to squeeze out on everybody. If you are filled with jealousy and envy, when you get under pressure, jealousy and envy is going to come out of you. If you are filled with resentment and bitterness, and anger at the world, when you get under pressure, bitterness and resentment and anger are going to come out and spill out to people.

If you're filled with yourself and your self-importance and your ego and "It's all about me", or if you're filled with self-pity and doubt and despair and discouragement, whatever is inside of you is going to come out when you're put under pressure.

But if you're filled with Jesus, and his love and his grace and his kindness and his patience and all the qualities that bring out the glory of God, when the pressure is on, that's what's going to squeeze out all over.

Don't blame anybody else. What's inside of you is what comes out when the heat's on, when you're under pressure.

I don't know what trouble you're facing. I don't know the problem that you're going through. But I do know this: no matter what you're going through right now – financial, physical, health, relational, whatever, God wants to show his glory through you, at this moment, in the pressure in your life.

You need to stop focusing on your pain, stop focusing on the problem and you need to get your eyes off of your pain and on to God's power. Off your problem and on to God's presence. Off your predicament and onto God's plan and purpose. And all the other things that are to his glory.

You were made, you were created, you were designed to enjoy God's love and to express his glory. He wants to express it through you. How do I do that? How do I live for God's glory?

Jesus is the model. Jesus showed us how to do it. You do five things. The Bible says, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31)

All? You can do that for the glory of God. Everything that a human does can be done to the glory of God. Saint Irenaeus said, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Apparently, he means when God is alive in that person.

When you do human things, you can actually bring glory to God in everything you do. It's all about attitude. Jesus modeled it. There are five things you can do that bring glory to God.

This morning, let me share with you what these five things are in the form of an acrostic. I call it GLORY. Get it? G-L-O-R-Y. Here are the **five ways that your life can bring glory to God.**

**G – Give yourself to God completely.**

Not partially – completely. Give yourself to God completely. This is called Worship. Worship is giving yourself to God completely. Anytime you do this whether you're by yourself or with five people or five hundred or five thousand. Anytime you offer yourself to God you are worshipping. And that brings glory to God.

The Bible says, **“Give the Lord the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come to worship him. Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor.”** (1 **Chronicles 16:29** NLT) Worship is singing. But worship is also praying. It's giving. It's thinking. It's being quiet. It's offering. It's serving. There are all kinds of ways you can worship God. But you give yourself to God completely. It's expressing your love to God.

Jesus says in **Mark 12:30**, **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”** What's he saying there? Do it completely! Heart, soul, mind, strength. Give yourself to God completely. Then,

**L – Love and serve others compassionately.**

God says I don't want you to just love me. I want you to learn to love other people. Life is all about love. It is a lesson in love. It is learning how to love God, learning how to love others. Learning to love God is called worship.

Learning to love other people is called Ministry. Everybody has a ministry. Not everyone is a pastor, but everybody's a minister.

The Bible says, "If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11)

Earlier I mentioned the first and greatest commandment according to Jesus. Here's the second greatest, "Love your neighbor as yourself." God says I made you to love me and to love other people and the way you love other people is by serving them. By helping them.

Listen to me very closely! Your greatest ministry in life, the way you make the biggest contribution with your life, your biggest help to other people will come out of your greatest pain. The very things you're most ashamed of, you wish had never happened, that you wish you could forget, God says, "Yep! Even that, I can turn around and use it for good to help other people." So no pain is wasted, no hurt is wasted, no sin is wasted. God says I'll use that to help other people. Who can better help an alcoholic than someone who has been an alcoholic? Who can better help somebody who's going through the pain of divorce than somebody who's been through the pain of divorce? Who can better help somebody with a Down Syndrome child than a parent who's had a Down Syndrome child? Who can better help somebody who's been molested or raped than somebody who's been molested or raped?

God did not plan the pain in your heart. Remember we live on a broken planet, and nothing works. Because of sin, nothing works. But God says I can use that for good and you can use it to serve others.

I want you to think of the biggest mistake you've ever made in life. God wants to use that for his glory. I want you to think of your greatest hurt in life.

God can even use that for his glory. I want you to think of your biggest sin in life. God says, Yes! That too. Friend, God can turn crucifixions into resurrections.

Never waste a past hurt, a past sin, a past habit, a past hang-up. God says, “I can redeem it. I’m in the business of doing miracles and I will use it to help other people if you will give it to me and it will bring me glory.”

You give yourself to God completely. And you love and serve others compassionately, out of love. This is called ministry. Then,

**O – Obey God’s word continually.**

Again, Jesus is our model. Jesus models all five of these things. In John 17:4, Jesus say this: **“I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.”** When a child does what a parent asks them to do, it brings glory to the parent. And obeying God’s word continually brings glory to God.

Sometimes that’s not easy. Because when God tells you in his word, the Bible, what to do, it’s not always convenient. It’s not always popular. It’s not always easy or inexpensive. It’s not always the natural thing to do. You see, when somebody hurts me, my natural response is to hurt them back. God says, I don’t want you to do that. It only makes the pain worse. I want you to forgive them.

Over and over again, if you make the decision, “God, I’m going to obey your word even though culture says the exact opposite, even though my friends say the exact opposite, even though everybody thinks I’m stupid for doing the opposite, I believe, God, you know what’s best. You made me. You love me. You know what will make me happy more than anything else. You’re saying these for my benefit.”

Friends, God is not some monster in the sky saying, “I want you to do it this way because I’m capricious”. God says I want you to do this for your own benefit. I’m trying to keep you from having a broken heart, a broken body, broken dreams.

So, when God says stuff like save sex for marriage and you go, “Come on God! That’s not fun!” God says, “Maybe not. But do you want to do it the right way or do you want to do it the way that causes problems, hurtful memories, and all kinds of other things in your life?” God says you’ve got to decide whether you’re going to listen to the word or the world. Who knows more? Who cares about you more? Who knows what’s best for you? The third way you bring glory to God is to obey God’s word continually. That means constantly, all the time.

Jesus says to his disciples, “If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples.” (John 8:31) So, if you truly are a disciple of Jesus, you’ll keep on obeying him, continuing in studying his word and doing it. This is the third purpose of life – Discipleship.

Worship is giving myself to God completely. Ministry is loving and serving others compassionately. Discipleship is obeying God’s word continually.

Not only are we to do what God tells us to do he says tell other people the good news. Tell them how to do it right too. That’s called the Great Commission. He says teach them to obey my word. Teach them to obey everything I’ve commanded you.

When you do that, what happens? Somebody said BIBLE means Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. That’s what the Bible is. Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. What if I get my directions out of the Bible? It will radically change me for the better. I start growing up and becoming more and more like Christ. That’s called discipleship.

The Bible says, “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor. 3:18) In short, you become like Christ, sharing in his glory. Then,  
R – Reach out to unbelievers courteously.



Jesus says, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10) That’s what God wants us to do. He says I want you to tell everybody the good news – their past can be forgiven, they can have a purpose for living, they can have a home in heaven. He says everybody’s lost. They’re all confused. What am I here for? Where am I going? We’re all lost. We all need help.

But he says when you deal with people who aren’t believers yet, you don’t judge them. You don’t be critical of them. You don’t berate them. You don’t attack them. When people attack you, you don’t attack them back. You certainly don’t go out judging other people. That’s not what Jesus said to do.

Just tell them the good news. He says, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15)

You must respect everyone. If you’re going to call yourself a Christian, a follower of Jesus, you must respect everyone. Even people of the other political party? Yes! Even people who are in other religions? Yes! Even people who have a lifestyle that I don’t like, or I disagree with? Yes! You must treat everyone with respect. Why? Because God wants to save them. And he wants them all to know the good news. Remember, you can expect a non-Christian to behave in a non-Christian way. And a Christian? You would expect a Christian to behave in a Christian way.

The Bible says treat them with respect but share the good news. So why do we keep reaching out? Because God has never made a person he doesn’t love. Because God has never made a person that Jesus didn’t die for. Because God has never made a person, he doesn’t have a purpose for and wants in his family in heaven for eternity. And because as long as there’s one person who doesn’t know the good news, this church will keep reaching out. And as we reach out, the body of Christ will grow.

The Bible says, “The grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.” (2 Cor. 4:15) God wants a big family. He wants everybody to know him. We do this through evangelism.

There’s one more thing that God wants us to do.

**Y – Yoke up with believers closely.**

Yoke up with other believers closely. The word “yoke” is a Bible word. It means to team up with. Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you.” Paul calls other believers “yoke-fellows.” In the scripture, this term yoking up means to team up. It’s the word for Fellowship.

God says this: “Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. Instead, let us encourage one another.” (Heb. 10:25) You can do that inside the church. Or you can do that in a small group. It is when we’re together that we can care for each other. The Bible says that when we love each other it gives glory to God.

“Because of the proof provided by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone.” (2 Cor. 9:13 CSB)

Friends, God wants you to know and love him. He wants you to love his family. He wants you to grow in him. He wants you to serve him. And he wants you to share him. The Bible calls that Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Evangelism. In other words, Give yourself to God completely, Love and serve others compassionately, Obey God’s word continually, Reach out to unbelievers courteously, and Yoke up with believers closely. It’s the same five things. It’s called a Purpose Driven Life. It’s when you do it the way God wants you to do it.

Church, these are five ways by which we glorify God. The challenge is: Are you willing to do these 5 things in order to glorify God alone?