

Christian Basics (1)

Introduction (Ephesians 1:1-11)

What is our mission as a church?

What is my mission as a disciple of Christ?

1 AIM	Glorify God
2 TOOLS	The Bible Prayer
3 TASKS	Tell Teach Train

1 AIM: Glorify God

1. God is infinitely glorious

- **The Bible says everywhere that God is glorious.**
Ps 19:1, Isa 6:3, Revelation 21:23, 1 Chron 16:24-25, Ps 29:2, Ps 24:8,10,
- **Understanding the glory of God**

In groups:

To what does the “glory” of God refer in each Bible reference?

Exodus 15:11

Exodus 33:18-19

1 Samuel 15:29

Psalms 19:1

Isaiah 6:3

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:4

Ephesians 1:6,12,14

- ➔ **Glory is sometimes used to describe one particular attribute of God**
- ➔ **God’s glory is also the sum total of all His attributes**
- ➔ **Glory = “weight” (Heb.) and “reputation” (Gk.) of God**
- **An application: THIS IS OUR GOD**

A.W. Tozer: “The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of any thoughts about God as true that are not worthy of him.”

2. God does everything for his own glory

- Bible texts

In groups:

Ask of each Bible reference: "What does God do for his own glory?"

Eph 1:5-6

Isa 43:6-7

Jer 13:11

1 Sam 12:22

Rom 15:8-9

Rom 3:25

2 Thess 1:10

John 11:1-6

"So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was."

- **God's self-glorification is Trinitarian... it's right... and it's for our good**

John 17:1-5

"... if God has respect to things according to their nature and proportions, he must necessarily have the greatest respect to himself. It would be against the perfection of his nature, his wisdom, holiness and perfect rectitude whereby he is disposed to do everything that is fit to be done, to suppose otherwise."

(Jonathan Edwards (d.1758), *Dissertation on the End to which God Created The World*)

3. Our single aim is to do everything for the glory of God

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

John 17:24, "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: To Glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

"Our goal is not to make much of the child, but to live and teach and lead in such a way that the child grows up making much of God.

Our aim is not to take a child's low view of self and turn it into a high view of self. Our aim is to take a child with low views of God and replace those with high views of God.

Our aim is not to take a child with little sense of worth and fill him with a great sense of worth. Rather our aim is to take a child who by nature thinks the world revolves around himself and show him that he was made to put God at the centre and get joy not from seeing his own tiny worth, but from knowing Christ who is of infinite worth." [John Piper, *Children's Desiring God*]

Homework / questions for reflection

- "God does everything for his glory." Why do we find this shocking? Why is it wonderful and satisfying?
- Read **Psalm 19**. What are the different ways we see God's glory displayed, according to the psalm? Why is v14 a fitting conclusion? Make it your prayer too.
- Consider: What will a church that is concerned for God's glory look like?
- Consider: What will my life look like if I am concerned above all else for the glory of God?