

Foundations 503: **God's Glory Is Our Purpose**
Thinking Biblically, Living Covenantally
ROUGH DRAFT

Our Non-Negotiables

[1 Corinthians 10.31](#), So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

[Rev 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.”

[Rev 5.13](#), And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

[Rom. 11:36](#); [1 Cor. 10:31](#); [Ps. 73:24-28](#); [John 17:21-23](#).

One day in my Sunday School class, the teacher asked, “Why are we here? For what reasons are we doing these things?” Before hardly any time lapsed, like a good Presbyterian, Martha declared, “To glorify God and enjoy him forever.” And she was exactly right.

Now let's look at some fundamental questions.

What is the chief and highest end of man? We may have asked the question in a different way with these universal questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? Does it matter?

Let's explore what these questions mean by looking at purpose, priorities, and identity.

When the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechism speaks of the word “end,” it is speaking of purpose.¹

First, purpose. If you interviewed a man (or woman) on the street and asked: “What is the chief end of man? What is a person's chief purpose in life?” What do you think they'd say? Would they define “purpose” in terms of power, pleasure, wealth, intellect, happiness, and other things?

Are you looking for purpose in life? Have you tried the avenues I just mentioned? Maybe you are on the trajectory of getting a good education, getting a well-paying job you love, getting married to the love of your life, and having a model family. You've made this plan your purpose

¹ Boekstein, William, Cruse, Jonathan Landry, Miller, Anthony J. *[Glorifying and Exalting God](#)*. (2023). Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, pp. 1-4.

in life yet, in honest moments, you admit you aren't satisfied, you aren't fulfilled. Rather, you're discontented. You're restless, not peaceful. Where does one go to find purpose and fulfillment?

Let's look at biblical examples of those who found purpose in God to help us in our own journey.

King Solomon's Purpose: Fear God and keep his commandments. Solomon had experienced the advantages of great wealth and knowledge, yet at the end of his life, he called it all "vanity" ([Eccl 1.14](#)). What he had done, what he knew, and what he experienced brought him superficial and limited fulfillment. Solomon discovered the meaninglessness of life when it is lived only for himself. He concludes the book of Ecclesiastes: *"Here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil"* ([Eccl 12:13-14](#)).

Solomon wrote, *"He/God has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end"* ([Eccl 3.11](#)).

Warren Wiersbe explains this verse: *"Man's life is linked to eternity. Man was created in the image of God, and was given dominion over creation ([Gen. 1:26-28](#)); therefore, he is different from the rest of creation. He has "eternity in his heart" and is linked to heaven. This explains why nobody (including Solomon) can be satisfied with his or her endeavors and achievements, or is able to explain the enigmas of life ([1:12-2:11](#)). God accomplishes His purposes in His time, but it will not be until we enter eternity that we will begin to comprehend His total plan."*²

Part of our purpose in life is to fear God and obey Him. The Bible teaches that life is "meaningless" apart from this. Solomon says that life is all about honoring God with our thoughts and lives and thus keeping His commandments, for one day we will stand before Him in judgment. Solomon discovered that there is no lasting purpose apart from God. **God's glory is our purpose.**

Job's Purpose: Trust God, no matter what. Job knew prosperity. Job knew the respect of his community. Job knew the joy of family life. Job knew that a blameless life pleased God. And... Job knew suffering. He lost his family, his health, and his wealth. Job knew despair in his suffering, so much so that he cursed the day he was born ([Job 3.11](#)). Yet through all his travails, he trusted God, no matter what. He still had faith in the redeeming power of God, *"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth,"* ([Job 19.25](#)).

Through his suffering, he never stopped talking to God, appealing to God, trusting in God. He didn't leave God out of his suffering, he brought God into his suffering. Job's eyes were opened to know God more personally. Job declares, *"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;"* ([Job 42.5](#)) Job's head knowledge of God had become heart knowledge as God opened his eyes to behold his majesty, greatness, and sovereignty.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [Be Satisfied](#) (p. 47). Victor Books.

Through Job's life, we learn about God's sovereignty over the suffering of His children. Job's life illustrates a journey of knowing God and trusting Him in every moment, especially the darkest ones. **Job found that God's glory was his purpose.**

Jesus' Purpose: Seek and save the lost. Jesus Christ came to this world with a clear mission: to seek and save sinners ([Luke 19.10](#)). Jesus is the God-Man ([Col 2.9-10](#)). Jesus is the only mediator between God and men ([1 Tim 2.5](#)). He identifies himself as "the way, the truth, and the life, and the only way to the Father" ([John 14.6](#)). Jesus said that knowing him is equal to knowing God Himself ([John 17.3](#)). Jesus dedicated his life by accomplishing God's will through dying on the cross to save sinners ([John 4.34, 19.30](#)). Jesus accomplished his purpose: to seek and save the lost.

Paul's Purpose: Know Jesus Christ and make him known. Paul's life was radically transformed after an encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus ([Acts 9.1-9](#)). After his conversion, Paul the persecutor of Christians became Paul the apostle of Christ. Paul, the "apostle of the Gentiles" spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the ancient world and wrote 13 epistles both to churches and individual Christians.

Paul's life was Christ ([Col 3.4](#)). Paul was completely committed to Jesus. He lived his life unto Jesus and for Jesus. He declared of himself in [Gal 2.20](#), "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*" And in [Php 1.20-21](#) he said, ²¹ *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* ²² *If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me...*" Paul said that if Jesus allowed him to live, he would spend it knowing Jesus, building up the church, and bringing people to Christ.

Paul's ultimate purpose was to know Jesus and experience the power of his resurrection through his suffering and death ([Php 3.10](#)). Paul ran the race of life aiming for the prize, a "*crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to him on that Day*"... *imperishable crown from the Lord on the judgment day* ([1 Cor 9.24-25. 2 Tim 4.7-8](#)).

The Scriptures Reveal God's Purposes

God's purposes are revealed through the Scriptures. [Listen to these Old Testament scriptures regarding God's purposes.](#)

No purpose of God can be thwarted ([Job 42.2](#)). Believers can humbly ask God to show them His ways and lead them ([Ps 25.1-9](#)). God will fulfill His purposes for His children ([Ps 57.2; 138:8](#)). Every day of a person's life was laid out before birth ([Ps 139.16](#)) God wants to guide believers along the best pathways, advising and watching over them ([Ps 32.8](#)).

[What does the New Testament passages teach about God's purposes?](#)

God causes all things to "work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose" ([Romans 8.28](#)). Believers are to do all things for God's glory ([1 Cor 10.30-31](#)). In fact, God's chosen people have been "predestined" according to His plan and

purpose that they might be “for the praise of his glory” (Eph 1.11-12). God prepared good works for every believer to do (Eph 2.10). God will complete His good work in believers, and He works in them to act in accordance with His good purpose (Php 1.6; 2:13).

What is our purpose as believers?

God’s purposes for *every* believer is to be made alive in Christ, to be transformed and conformed to the image of Christ by God’s grace through faith, and to do the good works God prepared in advance for them to do (Eph 2.1-10; Rom 8.29; 12:1-2, Titus 2.14; 3:8). God’s purposes also include seeking to know God and fellowship with Him, learning to obey and serve Him, being good stewards of His creation, bearing spiritual fruit, loving others, sharing the gospel, and making disciples.³ Above all, God’s people are to glorify him.

God also gives believers an individual purpose. How does a believer discover his individual purpose? By seeking God through the study His Word, by seeking God’s will and learning his ways, and by discovering and developing spiritual gifts. God designed each person as an individual creation, and His purposes unfold to transform every area of life. For example, God gave prophets certain purposes for specific times. Or, God may give certain abilities, giftings, or callings for particular events, such as with Joseph’s preparation to preserve people during a famine.”⁴

The *chief* end of man. We looked at the “end” part dealing with purpose, but what about the word “chief”? These are our priorities.

Priorities in glorifying and enjoying God

Stephen Covey in his bestseller *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, wrote: “One of my favorite essays is ‘The Common Denominator of Success’ written by E.M. Gray. He spent his life searching for the one denominator that all successful people share. He found it wasn’t hard work, good luck, or astute human relations, though those were all important. The one factor that seemed to transcend all the rest ... [was] putting first things first.”⁵

The Scriptures emphasize the importance of having our priorities in order. Let’s identify 3 priorities in the Word of God.⁶

Priority 1: Make God your reference point. As Harry Reeder said: “God is not first on our list, he is the list.” Everything in our life is oriented to him.

Of the ten commandments, which is listed first? “*I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me*” (Exodus 20:2-3).

³ Wilson, Dawn. (2-2-22). What Does the Bible Say About Purpose? biblestudytools.com.

⁴ Wilson, Dawn. (2-2-22). What Does the Bible Say About Purpose? biblestudytools.com.

⁵ Covey, Stephen. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. (1990). pp. 148-149.

⁶ Van Belkum, Andre. *Christian Priorities: Putting God First*. (January/February 2016). Discern Magazine.

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” Nothing in life is to come before the Lord our God. Not our own desires and ambitions, not our family, not our work, not our recreation, not our friends, not even our church. Nada, nothing, absolutely nothing is to come before the Lord. Not only is he to come first in our lives, he is to be. our. life ([Col 3.4](#)).

([Luke 10:38-42](#)) Luke records the story of two sisters, Mary and Martha, who were faithful friends of Jesus. When Christ visited them, they wanted to serve Him in the way each considered was most important. Let’s pick up the story:

*³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “**Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.**”*

You can hardly fault Martha for behaving as she did. I mean, Jesus shows up, not alone but with 12 disciples, to her house! As a good Jewish hostess, she needed to make sure their feet were washed, they were made welcome, and they were served an exemplary meal. Her dedication to good service is to be commended. However, in this instance, her priorities were the issue. Bruce Barton writes: “Jesus wanted Martha to rearrange her priorities. It is possible for service to Christ to degenerate into mere busywork that is no longer full of devotion to God.”⁷ Listening to Christ’s teachings was even more important than all her responsibilities as a hostess.

Barton applies this: “How quickly duties and demands rob us of our peace. Luke uses Mary and Martha’s experience with Jesus to give us a timeless lesson in discipleship. Doing God’s work in any of its phases of planning or implementation can distract us from reflecting on Jesus’ teaching. Are you so busy working for him that you have no time to sit and listen at his feet? Jesus wants diligent service, but even more he desires that you relax, set aside worries and urgent responsibilities, and come to him in singleness of mind. Adjust your priorities. Take time to meditate on Jesus’ life, his mercy, and his love.”⁸

So, how do we demonstrate that we truly love God and put His teachings first?

The answer: *“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome”* ([1 John 5:3](#)). The evidence that we love God is that we keep His commandments. Of course, we will not do this perfectly, but that is our aim.

“He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him” ([1 John 2:4-5](#)).

⁷ Barton, B. B., Veerman, D., Taylor, L. C., & Osborne, G. R. (1997). [Luke](#) (p. 286). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁸ Barton, B. B., Veerman, D., Taylor, L. C., & Osborne, G. R. (1997). [Luke](#) (p. 286). Tyndale House Publishers.

Let's be honest with ourselves. Are we putting our personal relationship with God first, or are we allowing other aspects of our lives to come before the worship of the true God?

Priority 2: Develop godly, righteous character.

In his book *The Death of Character*, James Davison Hunter wrote: "Does character really matter? The collective wisdom of the ages would say it matters a great deal. In both classical and biblical cultures—civilizations that have been so deeply formative to our own—people well understood there to be a direct association between the character of individuals and the well-being of the society as a whole. Individual character was essential to decency, order, and justice within public life. Without it, hardship was not far off. ... Indeed, much of the history of the ancient Hebrews can be told as a story of blessing for faithfulness to God—abiding by God's standard of holiness—and punishment for abandoning those standards" (p. 4).⁹ Sounds like a prophetic word to me!

Mr. Hunter cites [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#) as support for his statements. ¹⁵ *"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules,² then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."*

When you have to make important decisions, whose will usually takes priority in your life? Your will or God's?

The apostle Paul admonished Christians to *"be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"* (Romans 12:2).

A renewed mind is saturated and ordered by the Word of God. The renewed mind is a mind changed by the work of the Word and the Spirit. "The mind renewed by the Spirit is able to discern the good, the pleasing, and the perfect purposes of God with a view to aligning their own attitudes and values with it."¹⁰ In other words, one who is led by the will of God is more and more conformed to Christ's likeness.

Christ set the perfect example for how to develop a godly character. He taught his disciples to pray that God's Kingdom be established, and that *"Your [the Father's] will be done on earth as it is in heaven"* ([Matthew 6:10](#)). Jesus said He came to earth to accomplish and carry out His

⁹ Van Belkum, Andre. [Christian Priorities: Putting God First](#). (January/February 2016). Discern Magazine.

¹⁰ Bird, M. F. (2016). [Romans](#) (S. McKnight, Ed.; p. 416). Zondervan.

Father's will ([John 6:38](#)). Even when facing brutal physical pain and mental torment, Christ prayed, "*Not My will, but Yours, be done*" ([Luke 22:42](#)).

We must diligently fight the battle to overcome our sinful, selfish nature. As John Owen, the great Puritan theologian, pointed out is so succinctly: "Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you." As we put off our old selfish nature, we put on Christ and his character of godliness and righteousness.

Priority 3: Seek first the kingdom of God. "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [the cares of the world] shall be added to you*" ([Matthew 6:33](#)). This verse summarizes the first two priorities—1. focusing on God/make God your reference point and 2. seeking His righteousness/develop a godly, righteous character.

The verb *seek* implies "being absorbed in the search for, a persevering and strenuous effort to obtain" ([13:45](#), *to find a treasure in a field*). The form of the verb that is used also allows the interpretation, "Be constantly seeking" ([Col. 3:1](#), ... *the things above*). Seek *first* means to give God the priority that is due him ([2 Cor. 4:18](#)).¹¹

The object of this *seeking* is "*his kingdom and his righteousness*." We, as believers in the LJC, are to acknowledge God as King in our own hearts and lives. But it goes further, believers are "to do all in their power to have Christ recognized as King also in the hearts and lives of others, and also in every sphere: education, government, commerce, industry, science, etc. ...It stands to reason that when God is recognized as King, righteousness will prevail."¹²

Do you want change in your family, your community, your country? Then spread the gospel so that the hearts of those who hear and believe will be changed.

So, these are the believer's priorities:

1. Make God your reference point.
2. Develop godly, righteous character.
3. Seek first the Kingdom of God.

So, we've looked at our purpose and priorities. What about our identity?

What is the chief end of *man*? "Man" speaks to our identity. Who am I?

Who do you think you are? How would you describe yourself? Would you say you are a woman, a wife, a mother, a daughter? Would you say you are single? Would you say you're a teacher? Would you say who you are middle class? Would you say you tall or short, skinny or overweight? Would you say you are an introvert or an extrovert? Would you describe yourself

¹¹ Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). [Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew](#) (Vol. 9, p. 354). Baker Book House.

¹² Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). [Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew](#) (Vol. 9, p. 354). Baker Book House.

by your weaknesses and failures or your strengths and accomplishments? Who do you think you are?

How do you describe yourself? You know, the one who talks to you incessantly is yourself. Who are you telling yourself you are? Is what you are telling yourself based on your own thoughts and what the world tells you, or is it based on what God has said about you?

Jerry Bridges in his book, *The Discipline of Grace*, exhorts believers: “Preach the gospel to yourself.” You realize, don’t you, that the gospel is not only to proclaim to unbelievers? The gospel is to be preached to believers, to preach to ourselves. The gospel’s purpose doesn’t end with our initial belief in Christ as our Savior. So often we think that just because we have saving faith, we don’t need to continue to learn and grow in knowledge of the gospel.

Too often this track of thinking leads to disillusionment, disappointment, and frustration with our Christian lives. We’re floundering in our walk with God, and we don’t know why. Says Bridges: “The pursuit of holiness must be motivated by an ever-increasing understanding of the grace of God; else it can become oppressive and joyless.”¹³ As we spend time in the Word, God preaches the gospel each day in order to lavish on us the riches of his grace. God gives us his gospel to train us in godliness. [Col 1.23](#), Paul tells the church to be continuously established and steadfast in the gospel and refuse to be moved from there. I encourage you to read the Bridges’ entire book (*The Discipline of Grace*), but particularly the chapter on “Preach the Gospel to Yourself” where he delves deeply into [Romans 3.19-26](#). The principles from this passage need to permeate our being.

How is a Christian to think about himself? Are you preaching the gospel to yourself or listening to what the world says you should or shouldn’t be? Are you preaching the gospel to yourself or listening to your own negative or prideful self-talk?

There are hundreds of ways that describe your identity in Christ, but I’ll only list a few.

Your Identity in Christ

You Are Uniquely Crafted and Known.¹⁴ [Ps 139. 13-18, 23-24.](#)

¹³ *For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.*

¹⁴ *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.¹
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.*

¹⁵ *My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

¹⁶ *Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,*

¹³ Bridges, J. (2006). [The Discipline of Grace: God’s Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness](#) (p. 7). NavPress.

¹⁴ Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [PD101 Our Identity in Christ](#). Lexham Press.

- when as yet there was none of them.*
- ¹⁷ *How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!*
How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ *If I would count them, they are more than the sand.*
I awake, and I am still with you.
- ²³ *Search me, O God, and know my heart!*
Try me and know my thoughts!
- ²⁴ *And see if there be any grievous way in me,*
and lead me in the way everlasting!

This passage speaks a lot about how God made us. Look at **v13**, *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.* Do you believe God created you exactly as you are? Do you see yourself as someone who has been uniquely, lovingly, graciously created by God for your good and His glory?

You Are Uniquely Chosen.¹⁵ Eph 1.3-6.

How is it that we can have fellowship with the holy God and still know that He loves us? God tells us in this passage. We have been particularly chosen to be counted holy and blameless by Him. You have been blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing. He has chosen you in Him before the foundation of the world and counted you already holy and blameless before Him. When God looks at you, He does not see you as blameworthy and sinful. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ. So He chose to adopt you. It was His choice to do so. Knowing you, knowing who you are, knowing your weaknesses, knowing your shortcomings, knowing your sins, He has predestined you to be His son through adoption according to the purpose of His will. It's His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the beloved. This is your identity. Go through this passage and preach yourself the gospel!

You Are Loved by God.¹⁶ Rom 8.35-39.

Who do you think you are? How do you think God would describe you? Do you say, "I am, someone who is loved by God. Yes, there may be great trial in my life right now, but that doesn't mean I'm not loved by God. God has promised to love me, and nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

You Are Born Again to a Living Hope.¹⁷ 1 Peter 1.3.

How does God describe you? Who do you think you are? The Bible tells us that you have been born again to a living hope. **1 Peter 1:3**: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy He caused us—He caused us—to be born again to a living hope."* What is that living hope? That we are growing more and more to be like Him, and that we will be with Him. He caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Because Christ was resurrected, then we can know that we have a future. Who do

¹⁵ Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [*PD101 Our Identity in Christ*](#). Lexham Press.

¹⁶ Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [*PD101 Our Identity in Christ*](#). Lexham Press.

¹⁷ Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [*PD101 Our Identity in Christ*](#). Lexham Press.

you think you are? Are you a person with no future? Or are you a person who has a beautiful future because Christ has been raised from the dead?

You Are Declared Righteous.¹⁸ [Rom 5.1-9.](#)

How does God describe you? He has declared you to be righteous so that He is completely at peace with you. In God's sight you are completely innocent, completely obedient. You are justified. [Romans 5:1](#): *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* The reality is, God is now completely at peace with us. We are no longer under the wrath of God. Why? Because we have been justified. And what does justification mean? Justification means that when God looks at me, he sees me as sinless. When God looks at you, he sees you as sinless.

You Are Freed from Debt.¹⁹ [Col 2.13-14.](#)

How does God describe us? We're justified, we're loved, we're innocent, we're forgiven, we're welcomed. But that's not all. All of the debt of rebellion and unbelief that you have accumulated in your life to God, all of that debt has been canceled out.

You Are Freed from Bondage and Adopted.²⁰ [Rom 6.11; 8.16.](#)

How does God describe us? We are no longer a slave to sin. [Romans 6:11](#) says: *"So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."* Consider, think about, ponder the truth that God has called us to Himself, made us alive together with Him, called us His own, and enabled us to conquer sin. We are now dead to sin and alive to God. And, we've been adopted. *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God"* ([Rom 8.16](#)).

We Are Kept and Delivered.²¹ [John 10.28-30, Col 1.13, Gal 3.13.](#)

Jesus says this: *"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."* You are being kept by Christ. No one can unwrap his grasp on you.

Jesus has delivered you from the domain of darkness and transported us over into the kingdom of His Son ([Col 1.13](#)). You are no longer that person who lived in terrible darkness. You no longer belong in Satan's kingdom with Satan as your father. Now you have been transported into the kingdom of God's Son into that kingdom of light, and you have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. He has delivered you from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for you ([Gal 3.13](#)). We are free now from having to obey as a way to earn or merit God's favor.

Does that mean we don't care about obedience? No, we care about obedience because we love Jesus. Jesus said if you love him, you'll keep his commandments (Jn 14.15). But we no longer try to earn God's favor or approval by our works of obedience. Why? Because the gospel tells us that we are already approved of; not by our own works but by Christ's work.

¹⁸ Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [PD101 Our Identity in Christ](#). Lexham Press.

¹⁹ Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [PD101 Our Identity in Christ](#). Lexham Press.

²⁰ Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [PD101 Our Identity in Christ](#). Lexham Press.

²¹ Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [PD101 Our Identity in Christ](#). Lexham Press.

You Are a Citizen of Heaven Supplied with Everything.²² [Php 4.19; 3.20.](#)

How does God describe you? One of the things that God says about you is that you have everything you need. Right now, you have everything you need. God has promised that He will give you all you need when you need it. So who are you? You are a person who has been blessed in God's riches, and you have everything you need.

God also describes you as a citizen in heaven. You see, you're not a citizen of another country. You are not primarily a citizen of the country of your birth. You're not American or German or Kenyan. The Scriptures describe believers as aliens and strangers on earth. Instead, your citizenship is in heaven. You have been given all of the rights, all of the privileges of a natural-born son in this kingdom.

What does it mean to glorify God and enjoy Him forever? How does God's glory become our purpose? **How**, then, do we glorify God, whether we eat or drink or whatever we do?

Paul writes in [1 Cor. 6.20](#), "*For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*" We are to glorify God in all that we do. And then in [1 Cor.10:31](#), we have a command: "*Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*" We've been bought with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we belong to God. And because of that, we then are to live for His glory and honor.

END

SUBSTITUTE THIS FOR SOMETHING ELSE OR ADD IT OR DON'T USE IT AT ALL

Dr. Joseph Pipa Jr., president emeritus and professor of systematic and applied theology at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary outlines six principles that will help us to glorify God in all we do. Each one could be summarized by one word: scriptural, motivation, service, dependence, thankfulness, and wholeheartedness.²³

Firstly, we glorify God by submitting ourselves to the **authority of God's Word**, recognizing that as the Lord of our lives, God is, therefore, our **reference point**. In Old Testament times, there was the civil law, the ceremonial law, and the moral law. The ceremonial law of the was designed how people dressed, what kinds of food to eat and not eat, and how they were to conduct their sex lives. The early believers, most of whom had been redeemed from paganism and its idolatrous and immoral practices had to learn a totally new way of thinking and living. The moral law was still the standard. Through the Word of God, these believers showed their love for Christ by their obedience to him. Though sometimes there was a steep learning curve

²² Fitzpatrick, E. (2014). [PD101 Our Identity in Christ](#). Lexham Press.

²³ Pipa, Joseph. "[What Does It Mean to Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever?](#)" (4-4-24). Ligonier.

(think the church in Corinth), believers were taught to live to the glory of God, even in the things they ate and drank. As they were obedient to God's Word, as they were transformed, they brought God glory. And the same is true of us.

Secondly, the motivation. The motivation to glorify God is by pleasing him rather than men. We are to be God-pleasers and not men-pleasers. Eph 6.5, "Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."

Thirdly, we glorify God in our service to others. In whatever we do, we must always keep our neighbor in mind. Paul writes in Php 2.3-4, "*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*" Think how serving your neighbor can minister to them. What about putting up their garbage can or sweeping their sidewalk? What about sending them a card if they are ill or visiting them in the hospital? What about just hanging out and talking with them? These are small things, but you never know what they may mean to your neighbor. Jesus tells us, "**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven**" (Mt 5.16).

Fourthly, we glorify God as we depend on him. Paul summarizes the wonder of the ways of God in [Romans 11](#) and then concludes: "For from Him, through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever" ([vs 36](#)). We must grow in conscious dependence upon God, trusting the Holy Spirit to do his work in us. I'm talking about spiritual discipline but also practical living.

I love what Martin Luther said about the lowly task of washing diapers:

"Now you tell me, when a father goes ahead and washes diapers or performs some other mean task for his child, and someone ridicules him as an effeminate fool—though that father is acting in the spirit just described and in Christian faith—my dear fellow you tell me, which of the two is most keenly ridiculing the other? God, with all his angels and creatures, is smiling—not because that father is washing diapers, but because he is doing so in Christian faith. Those who sneer at him and see only the task but not the faith are ridiculing God with all his creatures, as the biggest fool on earth. Indeed, they are only ridiculing themselves; with all their cleverness they are nothing but devil's fools."²⁴

Luther was washing diapers by faith in dependence on God. All work is valuable, including (and especially) something as lowly as washing diapers, if it is done in faith to the glory of God.

Fifthly, we glorify God by being thankful. So many of Paul's exhortations to prayer include this matter of thankfulness. Php 4.6, Paul says, "[Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving](#) let your request be made known to God." A counselor I know

²⁴ Eccher, Stephen. "[Washing Diapers for God's Glory: How Martin Luther Transformed Work.](#)" (October 31, 2017). <https://cfc.sebts.edu/faith-and-work/washing-diapers-gods-glory-martin-luther-transformed-work/>.

has his clients keep a thankful journal. The deal is, though, that they can't repeat anything they've written on another day. Wow! Imagine the minute things they have learned to thank God for. So, we thank God for our lives, for the blessings of our lives, and even that my new shoes didn't rub blisters on my feet! In everything give thanks (.

Sixthly, we do all we do wholeheartedly. Col 3.23, Paul is addressing slaves in this verse, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men." This ties in to our motivation: to be God-pleasers not men-pleasers. So, whether it's work or play, whatever, do it with all of our might.