

GRACE ON DISPLAY

God is a person of eternal and absolute purpose. All that He has done that we experience has a purpose. That purpose is said to be to glorify Himself, meaning to reveal His essence to creatures so that those creatures could come to know Him, love Him and praise Him forever. (Eph.2:7) will explain that His primary goal is to make us into visual aids of His grace - revealed through His kindness to us. As we introduce (Eph 2:1-10), which speaks about God's purpose, we need to clarify **“what does it mean to glorify God.”**

(Eph.2:1-3) Dead in Adam & Dominated by the Devil

- 1- Spiritually dead – Gen 2:17 – dying you will die – you were dead
- 2- Dominated – kata...kata – dominated – by the pattern of the world; dominated by the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit energizing the sons of disobedience;
- 3- Domination & deceit systems designed around man's sin nature weaknesses – moral degeneracy – asceticism, religion; immoral degeneracy – lascivious sins

(Eph.2:4-6) Made alive, raised & seated with Christ – but God – rich in mercy because of His great love

- 1- Sun – compound verbs – together with Christ & one another
- 2- Made us alive together with
- 3- Raised us up together with
- 4- Seated us in heaven together with
- 5- By grace you are now having been permanently & totally saved by God's grace forever

(Eph.2:7) God's purpose – Grace/Display; hina+subj “so that” indicating the purpose or desired result

- 1- He might display – **endeiknumi** AMSUB – demonstrate by illustration or visual aid, use visual example to prove or give evidence; RBT – teach by illustration; Aor Subj – single image of a possible future for each of us; Mid – Allowed to participate in His divine purpose & plan
- 2- Coming ages – **aion** (pl) – successive periods of time coming in the future – eternity
- 3- Overwhelming riches of His grace – **hyperballo** – throw beyond the boundary; hit it out of the field, park, parking lot; overflowing, unimaginable wealth resulting from His grace.
- 4- By His kindness upon us – **chrestotes** – generosity, helpfulness, usefulness, goodness; epi – upon us, poured out upon us Eph.1:6-7

We were dead & separated from Him, dominated by the devil & his deceptive methods but God because of His great love gave us mercy and grace, making us alive with Christ, raised us with Christ & seated us with Him as He sits at the right hand of God in heaven. He did this for the purpose of making us into visual aid, illustrations, visual proof/evidence of the riches of His grace, seen by means of the kindness, helpfulness and generosity He pours out upon us. The plan of man's redemption reveals the essence of God, especially His love, mercy and grace, so that all might know Him, love Him and worship Him.

Doctrine of God's Glory

1. Glory/Glorify – definition & description

Old Testament: (kabod) [To honor, splendor, opulence, wealth, beauty]

(Job 19:9) “my glory has been stripped from me”. Job's wealth and all that went with it!

(Ex.33:8, 22) “Show me your glory, when my glory passes” God's glory is the manifestation of His person/self;

(Ex.40:34) “His glory (self) filled the tabernacle”

(Num.14:22) His works – miracles in Egypt and the desert;

(Psm.19:2) “heavens tell of the glory of Lord”

New Testament: (doxa) [An outer manifestation of inner qualities evoking praise from others]

(Mt 6:29) “Lilies have more glory than Solomon” – inner qualities of bulb manifest into beautiful flower.

(Mt 16:27) Jesus returns with glory of God The Father – full manifestation of His person and majesty.

(Lk 9:32) The Transfiguration – He manifested His full deity through his human body, visible to Peter.

(Rom 1:18-20) God’s Perfect Righteousness (+R), Justice (+J), Eternal Life (EL) and power (Omnipotence) are manifested so that His glory is evident to all.

Glory is the outward display-manifestation-exposure of the praise worthy inner qualities of a person, creature or thing.

(1Cor 11:7) Marriage – The woman is the glory of the man – Man give his wife what is in his heart; she reflects & magnifies His character & manifests what is in Him – Unconditional Love (UL), integrity, leadership, courage.

God’s glory consists of some manifestation of His essence & the praise resulting which is the manifestation that is evokes from creatures.

2. God’s purpose for creating the universe and the creatures in it is to glorify Himself – to reveal His essence to creatures so that we can come to know Him, love Him & praise Him

- a. God’s purpose to glorify Himself is not self-serving based on a desire or need for praise.
- b. He created us so that He could bless us by sharing Himself with us – He is the blessing
- c. He has allowed history to unfold so that His essence can be seen in any and all situations to magnify Himself so that we can see Him clearly.
- d. God’s glory includes His intrinsic glory (His essence) & declarative glory (manifestation).

3. Jesus Christ is the glory of God - primary manifestation of the essence & excellence of God.

(John 14:9) Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Eternity Past: co-equal & co-eternal, different roles.

(John 17:5) "And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.

Present Time: Hypostatic Union, Incarnation – Deity manifested in human form

(Hebrews 1:3) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Jn 1:14-18).

Millennium – Christ will reign for 1,000 years

(Revelation 20:6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.