



## 2. Created for His Glory

The gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) has been called the ‘greatest story ever told.’ Why is it the greatest? I would say, because it is about God blessing all nations. It is about good things to come - forever. In one passage it is correctly called "the everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6). It is God's plan for blessing all of humanity for eternity. Let us begin our study Christian essentials over the next eight lessons. I call this Christian Essentials because most Christians across denominations and nations would agree with the concepts presented in this series. As I begin, the question I have is, “Where do I begin?”

### NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

One of the questions the Christian belief that God created the world leads us to is, “Why did God create the world and humans?” The truth is the Bible is absolutely silent on this issue, but many passages have given theologians reason to come to two conclusions.

#### 1. God created us for Fellowship

The first conclusion is that He created us for fellowship. But, why? Is He lonely? Not at all! Without getting into the deep and mysterious concept of the Holy Trinity, we can say that God within the Trinity has no additional need for fellowship. The reason we were created for fellowship with God is due to His love. However, the fellowship purpose God created us for is not automatic. While God’s character is to always love it is not necessary that humans reciprocate His love! This is because when God created humans He also gave us a free will. Humans have responded in various ways to His invitation for fellowship – accepting, ignoring or rejecting it.

#### 2. God created us to give Him glory

The second conclusion made by theologians is that God created man to give Him glory. Gen 1:27 says, “*God created man in His own image, in His own image He created them – male and female.*” What is the purpose of an image? Images are made to reflect the original.

John Piper puts it this way, “God made humans in His image so that the world would be filled with reflectors of God – seven billion images of God.” That is why the angels cry out in Isaiah 6:3 “*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!*” According to the Bible, Israel ultimately exists for the glory of God. In Isaiah 43:7 God says He created His people Israel, “*for my glory, whom I formed and made.*”

#### 3. God created the Universe to give Him glory

In addition to humans and the nation of Israel - even the universe was created to glorify God. “*The heavens declare the glory of God*” (Psalm 19:1) Yes, the Bible does suggest that humans, nations and the world were created to glorify God.

#### 4. Is God egotistical and self-centered?

This leads some to accuse God of having human faults of having a big ego and being self-centeredness and so desires to increase His glory. This is both unfair and wrong. God did not create the world out of a need to improve His glory and neither does the act of “glorifying” God in any way add to God’s glory.

As Piper explains it, “We were created to see his glory, be thrilled by his glory, and live in a way that help others see him and savor him for what He really is – that is glorifying God.

The great tragedy of the universe is that, while we were made in His image to glorify God, we have all fallen short of this purpose and as Paul says we have “*exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man,*” Roman 1:23.

This leads us to next essential Christian belief – the thing we call sin, which will be examined in the next episode.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Is God justified in creating us and the universe to glorify Him? Give this question a long and serious reflection and write down your thoughts.
- Do you think there are other reasons than fellowship and to glorify Himself that we were created?

### HOW DO I GLORIFY GOD?

Micah 6:8 tells us what God expects from us: “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” God created us to walk with Him, talk with Him, discover His attributes, and bless the world from that perspective.

To act justly is to hold ourselves to a higher standard than our old sin natures followed (1 Corinthians 10:31). We seek to learn God’s commands so we can obey them.

To love mercy is to become channels of the same mercy and grace that rescued us (Titus 3:5). We offer forgiveness to those who offend us and leave final judgment to God (1 Corinthians 4:5).

We walk humbly with our God when we stay close to Him in good times and bad, thanking Him for every good gift and running to Him when we feel threatened (1 Thessalonians 5:18). When we walk humbly with our God, we store up treasure in heaven as we seek to know and follow His will. By living our lives on earth for **His glory**, we can one day step into His presence knowing that we have fulfilled the purpose for which He created us (1 Timothy 6:18–19; Matthew 6:20).

### CONNECT WITH US

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