

Bedrock Beliefs Discussion Questions

Soli Deo Gloria - The Glory of God Alone – Romans 11:36

Drawn from the November 26, 2023 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: What is something of great worth to you? Is it material or does it have other qualities?

“The phrase “Soli Deo Gloria” was never uttered by the Reformers, though they certainly embraced the concept. Now well-known as the banner over the entire Reformational enterprise, the sola that points to the ultimate aim of true Christianity was never inscribed in a Luther text, or commented on in a Calvin exegetical sermon... Instead, it was two musicians who introduced this phrase into the Western linguistic bloodstream. Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frideric Handel used to write this Latin term—SDG— (Soli Deo Gloria) at the end of their compositions.

This detail is no mere factoid; it is in human terms a marvelous key to unlocking this doctrine. Every believer, whether in formal ministry or not, may live unto God for the purpose of magnifying His greatness. God was the reason composers composed and musicians played. We give Him glory by a full-orbed Christian life, whatever our precise role in the kingdom may be.”

(Sola: How the Five Solas Are Still Reforming the Church, p. 101 by Jason Duesing)

I. Glory to God alone

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:36

Throughout the Bible glory is a reoccurring theme!

The Hebrew word for glory is “**kabod**” which means to be heavy, abundance, riches, honor, splendor, dignity *of position*, reputation, or character.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

I Chronicles 16:10, 24

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. Psalm 29:1-3

1. What is the value of ascribing glory to God and declaring his attributes “among the nations”?

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14

2. What do you think Habakkuk means by this verse?

“I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth — everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:6-7

3. Since we are created for God’s glory, how should that look in our daily lives? What should people see and experience?

The Greek word for glory is “**doxa**” which means God's infinite, intrinsic worth, what evokes good opinion, honor, renown; a divine quality, the unspoken manifestation of God, splendor.

In the beginning of the New Testament and at the end we even see angels proclaiming it

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:14

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” Revelation 4:11

4. What specifically has God done to deserve this glory and why are these actions significant?

God's glory is the source of goodness, beauty and wonder, and the Apostle Paul wrote that it requires a response.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

I Corinthians 10:31

5. Why should we give glory to God alone?

II. Ways to Express Glory to God alone

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:5-7

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV

If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 1 Peter 4:16 ESV

6. Based on these verses, which ones speak to you most about how you can bring glory to God

7. Pastor jeff talked about giving glory to God by letting go of old, familiar life-stealing patterns and embracing fresh, life-giving patterns. How would you like to do this going forward?

Group Prayer Time: As you close in prayer, Praise God for making His glory known to you through Jesus Christ. Ask that He would allow the significance of glorifying Him through your life overpower your desire to glorify yourself. Thank God for saving you and calling you to give Him the honor He alone deserves.

For Personal Reflection your own:

A. How can the motive of glorifying God impact your relationships with people?

B. In what ways would you say you're currently living to glorify yourself instead of God?

C. What would change in your life this week if you were to live as one called out to glorify God?

Next week, December 3, pastor Jeff begin an Advent series called "Christmas Senses" covering Taste, Smell, Hearing, Touch, and Seeing. There will be discussion questions available in "Downloads" on the SCC website.