

Glorify the Father

By Steve Pruitt

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

John 15:8 NJKV

Kay Author wrote a book a few years ago in which she gave a wonderful definition of what it means to glorify God. She said that to glorify God means to give the world the correct opinion of what God is like. In other words when others look at our values, character and behavior they will be able to say, "That is what God is like."

The Hebrew Bible translates Genesis 1:27 like this: *And the Great Powerful One filled the man with a representation of himself.* When God made Adam and Eve in his image he told them to be fruitful, multiply and have dominion. Man's task, therefore, was to fill the earth with a representation of God and the rule of God. They were to be image bearers. They were to fill the earth with the likeness of God.

Because of sin Adam and Eve could not fully carry out the mandate God gave them. No longer could they give a proper representation of God and fill the earth with his likeness; they lost their ability to be God's image bearers. So, God made another way; he sent his Son Jesus into the world to *seek and save that which was lost* (Luke 19:10). What was lost when Adam sinned? Man's ability to be an image bearer.

Paul wrote to the Colossians speaking of Jesus, *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* (Colossians 1:15) *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.* (Colossians 2:9) The writer of Hebrews states that Jesus is the brightness of God's glory and *the express image of his person* (Hebrews 1:3). Jesus was God on earth showing the world the image of the Father; giving the correct opinion (representation) of what God is like.

Before Jesus was crucified he said to the Father, *I have glorified You on earth, I have finished the work which You have given me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.* (John 17:4-5) Jesus completed his mandate from the Father and our mandate is no less than his.

The Westminster Catechism lends credence to this by declaring, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and fully to enjoy him forever." This is the essence of true worship.

When people look at your life do they see the image of God? Is the chief end of your life to glorify God? Ask God to produce in you the fruit you need to give the correct opinion of what he is like.

NOTES: _____

Scriptures for meditation:

Genesis 1:26-28

John 13:32

John 14:13