

Glorying or Grieving

Believer - Who do you think you are? A sad sack or Rejoicing.

Saint are no longer sinners. Nouns are names not verbs. We don't have two natures. We were sinners, now we are saints in Christ Jesus.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Rom 3:23

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
Luke 19:10

The glory that was lost without Christ is restored in Christ.

Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behaviour; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." 1 Pet 1:15-16

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Rom 6:4

Raised with Christ to reveal His glory.

It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thess 2:14

These whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. Rom 8:30

The glory which You have given Me I have given to them. John 17:22

We exult in hope of the glory of God. Rom 5:2

And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, Rom 9:23

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Cor 3:18

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison. 2 Cor 4:17

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1 Pet 4:14

His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature. 2 Pet 1:3

Coffman's Commentaries on the Bible – “They are partakers of His holiness (Hebrews 12:10), "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4), and have received the reconciliation (Romans 5:11).”

Behaviour follows belief

There is sometimes too much emphasis on sin in the life of a believer for fear of counting ourselves to be better than we really are.

However, this also has the effect of nullifying the quality of the new birth in the image of Christ. We don't receive a half-baked rebirth, we don't have two natures, because we are told we have received everything pertaining to life and godliness.

We must remember that while the righteousness of Christ is imputed to our account, the life of the Spirit is imparted so that we are actually a new creation, not an imputed life, but the life of Christ so that we can be united to God. “The glory of God is the manifest beauty of his holiness.”

John Piper

If the new birth isn't intended to be in effective holiness, then it is not possible to be united to the Father and the Son by the Spirit, all whom

bring to the believer the likeness of God in Christ. If the new life is nothing more than an expectation, then the command to put on Christ is unworkable.

The Fog of War is everywhere



Psychological Warfare is active in our lives. The devil is vigorous. He knows that if we can be deceived into thinking we are less capable than we are in Christ, all our training and belief in what God has done, and is doing, will be of little help.

If we can be convinced that we are less than we really are as God's holy possession, all our efforts to stand firm for our King of Glory will amount to little. Our ability to fight will be curtailed without firing a shot in the direction of the enemy. This may be our only testimony. "Oh well, our flesh has got the best of us, because after all we are nothing but sinners."

And not only are true believers deceived, but unbelieving believers are assured they are already destined for glory without being born into glory. So that the allies we think we have in the faith are often working for our defeat.

We were once just flesh but now we are alive in our spirit in the likeness of Christ. We are both human and spirit of God. Like our saviour who is fully man and always God, we will be like Him in His glory when our sanctification is complete.

If we place too much emphasis on either the flesh or the spirit we will be divided and unbalanced. Too much attention on the flesh denies our incorporation into the fullness of the original nature of mankind that our Father intended in the beginning for His glory; which is the reality that Jesus revealed when He came to live amongst us as God Man.

The principalities and powers would have us justify our lack of spiritual discipline by emphasising our weakness according to the flesh. Too much emphasis on the spirit can deny the ongoing work of our sanctification in putting to death that which is earthy in us so we can walk in holiness and truth. The principalities and powers would have us believe we have everything now, so we are done with denying the flesh.

Psychological warfare of the spiritual kind can be either way; but it is the way Christians are nullified as the soldiers of the cross without anyone knowing that they have been compromised because the enemy is unseen. The breach of our defences happens on the inside where our weaknesses of the flesh are most vulnerable.

And there is within all of us all who are born again the ongoing potential for an ‘identity crisis.’ So that all we were as natural man, the good the bad and the ugly, and all we are as children of God, holy and blameless before Him, can be unconsciously denied and destroy our witness to the glory of Christ.

There is a spiritual conflict between the natural man of the ‘flesh,’ and the spiritual child of God, who are at war, the flesh against the spirit of our holiness. The spiritual must have dominion over the flesh. There will be no compromise. There is a constant battle for dominance and control for our identity, because the understanding of our identity determines how we behave.

The enemy is determined to blind all believers to their spiritual reality in Christ. But God has made it possible for us to stand firm as His children by giving us a life like His Son to be lived by the Spirit. Therefore, the ancient call to ‘Know thyself’ is something that is absolutely necessary if we are to keep ourselves hid with Christ in God.

Because we are more familiar with ourselves in the natural realm, we tend to fall back on this part of our identity instinctively when under pressure in response to the world’s motivation. And then we have a real crisis on our hands.

Many say we can't expect too much of ourselves, giving the impression that we are just sinners without a basis for claiming victory in Christ who has shared His glory with us. Many point to the scriptures where God says "*I will not give My glory to another*" and say that if we claim to have His glory, we are encroaching on what alone belongs to God.

So, what was God's intent when He said: "*I will not give My glory to another*" Did He mean not even His children? "*I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another; Nor My praise to graven images.*" Isa 42:8

This word of God is a warning against idolatry. It means that God will not share His glory for worship with those who are only part of His created order. No idols are to be allowed in the lives of His children.

However, by receiving glory from Christ, we never usurp the Shechinah glory of God, but we will reflect His glory as His children who have born of His life. God is always God; and we are always His children in the image of His one and only Son Jesus Christ.

We are to be holy as our Father is Holy. So, what is the connection between glory and holiness? John Piper thinks: "The glory of God is the manifest beauty of His holiness. It is the going-public of His holiness."

And glory means honour, renown; glory, an especially divine quality, the unspoken manifestation of God, splendor. Sharing glory is our unity in the glory of Father and Son as children of light.

We have received the glory of God from His Son

'The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, (with the result) that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.' John 17:22-23

Jesus is the Light of the glory and He made us to reflect His light.

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
2 Cor 4:6

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
1 John 3:2

The new life in the spirit is led by the Spirit of God to undertake the renewing of the mind, so that the mind becomes set on life in the spirit and life in the flesh is put to death.

D.A. Carson wrote: "But the words, "I have given them the glory that you gave me" are ambiguous, and may say more than I have suggested so far. They may indicate not only that Christ has given us His glory in the sense that we can now perceive it but also that Christ has given us His glory in the sense that we now possess it. If the latter thought is included, the text is telling us that our true glory is the way of the cross.

That way of being partakers of glory is vindicated by the glory of triumph later; because we already have something of Jesus's glory inasmuch as we, like Him, are to endure the enmity of the world and walk as suffering servants. This is our glory, not our shame.

W. Barclay comments, "We must never think of our cross as our penalty; we must think of it as our glory.... The harder the task we give a student, or a craftsman, or a surgeon, the more we honour him.... So when it is hard to be a Christian, we must regard it as our glory, as our honour given to us by God.

The unity among true believers is not only likened to the unity that exists between Jesus and His Father (17:22), a point made earlier (17:11) and already shown to be a unity of love, of purpose, of holiness, and of truth, but it is also a unity that turns on mutual indwelling. Jesus prays that all of them may be one "just as you are

in me and I am in You.... I in them and You in Me" (17:21, 23). Indeed, Jesus goes farther yet and prays, "May they be brought to complete unity..." (17:23), suggesting now that the unity is to grow and be perfected.

The analogy between the unity of believers and the unity enjoyed by Jesus and His Father is coherent only if the functional aspects of the Christology of John's Gospel (outlined in chapter 2 of this book) are kept in mind. We have seen that it is the Father, living in Jesus, who performs Jesus's works (14:10). Although the Son is in the Father, coeternal with Him in the unity of the Godhead, yet He is dependent upon Him and obedient to Him in the self-emptying of His mission. The Father and the Son, though one, remain distinct. In a similar way, the Father and the Son, by means of the promised Counselor, live in the disciples (14:23) so that the disciples, like Jesus, become the sphere of divine activity (14:12). As they remain in the vine, they bear fruit (15:1ff.). This comes about as they stand in dependence upon (15:4) and obedience toward (15:10f.) the One who lives within them."

Our glorification is a humbling experience

Knowing the reality of the life of godliness should have the opposite effect of causing us to have a higher opinion of ourselves than we ought; instead, it should have the opposite effect and heighten our sense of humility, as poor of spirit giving a sense of mourning over the way we have lived.

A fulfilment of the prophet Ezekiel. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.

Ezek 36:31

Be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Eph 4:23-24

While in the process of the renewing of our minds, our sin is more grievous, but it is not our identity. If our sin didn't cause us more grief than before we came to Christ, we would have to consider whether we are actually saved.

J.C. Ryle wrote: "The more spiritual light they have enjoyed, the more they have seen their own countless defects and shortcomings. The more grace they have had, the more they have been "clothed with humility."
1 Pet 5:5

If godliness is not actually imparted to us, fellowship with God is impossible for us. We have a higher calling than most of us are prepared to live up to. Abundantly Honoured more than we realise, sons and daughters of God, family, heirs with Christ.

We share in all that is His from the Father. Nothing that belongs to Christ is withheld from His brethren. *if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.*
Rom 8:17

We are born again by the Spirit of God to walk by the Spirit in order to live according to our holy calling as children of our Father who are made in the image and likeness of Christ. *these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*
Rom 8:30

Behold the Son, behold the Father, behold His brethren

We have received every blessing in the heavenly places. We have been given everything pertaining to life and godliness. Nothing is withheld. All we were is surrendered for all that is ours in Christ our Lord and Saviour.

If we are not sure who we are in Christ, how can we put on His life in order to overcome the flesh that entangles our minds so that we are without understanding?

To be able to put off the old man we once were and put on the new man in Christ we must accurately know who we were and who we now are in Christ.

Many don't see the fullness of their corruption in the flesh so they don't realise what has to go to the cross; and many don't see the glory of the Son so they don't realise what they are to put on.

It would also seem, that except for the exceptional few, most of us at some time, especially when we are tested, experience an Identity Crisis.

And our high calling is the reason for our testing, so that through testing we learn to trust our Father and put on our new life in concert with His Son. But we often grumble and fall back on the dead life of before.

We are what we believe. Our behaviour follows belief. If we misunderstand the directions and our starting point, we will get lost in the fog.

But if we know God and His Son and what the Bible says about us, we will rejoice in our suffering in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from His love as we learn to live His life.

However, our grumbling shows we still have a lot to learn about who we are in Christ. So, we need to encourage one another. If we don't know who we are as the children of God, we will think we are someone else, we will never live up to our potential in glory.

The sanctification to be worked out in us is that which occurred when first grafted onto Christ by the Spirit of God. We either live by the Spirit of the glory of God, or we wander around in the wilderness.

In order to walk by the Spirit without losing our way, we need to remember that the Spirit gives life and the flesh is of no value. When we walk according to the Spirit's influence with our life in Christ, then we will overcome the flesh that is in opposition to spiritual life.

God alone gives spiritual life through His Son

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:3-8

We need to know the real Son

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 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.

Heb 1:1-3

We can know God only through Christ. *'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.'*

Col 1:15-17

'No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.' (John 1:18) The Glory of God is revealed in the Son. The glory of God is the beauty of His Spirit revealed to us in the Son. It is the beauty of holiness that shines from His divine character. The glory of God is revealed in all His majestic

qualities as the expression of His eternal life. This is the glory of the Son of God. *"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."*
John 1:14

Jesus came to bring us into fellowship with the Father. *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*
John 17:3

Now, today, God reveals Himself to us in the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ came to live amongst us as the Son of the Most High God, He revealed the heavenly Father to the world as the God who could be known personally through faith in the Son.

This knowledge of God is the presence of God as fellowship with the eternal. Fellowship that is only possible for those who are like Christ, body of man and heart of spirit.

In Jesus Christ, the unapproachable is now approachable, the hidden in now seen, the unknowable is now knowable, the invisible is now visible to the eyes of faith, the all powerful is now available to them who believe in the Son. The glory of God is now the inheritance of the saints.

Jesus the Christ of God came as the Saviour made it possible for all who believed in Him to have a relationship with the unapproachable holiness that is the heart of God.

In order to make it possible for us to know God personally, the Lord Jesus provided the perfect sacrifice for our sins so we don't have to die. In giving up His life for us on a cross, He bore the judgement we deserve and died in our place, showing us the mercy and undeserving love that came from His divine glorious nature.

The Christ of God has given us access to the presence of the Almighty Father through His sacrifice and washing with His blood. *'And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.'*
Col 1:20

Jesus came to deliver those who believe in Him out of the darkness of ignorance about God into the intimacy and light of His own glory. (John 8:12) In this way He would set His followers apart from the world and give them the indwelling Spirit of God as their sanctifying power and comforter while they live on earth. Acts 2:38

The Lord Jesus Christ alone has made it possible for us to know God and stand in His glorious presence as those who are born again in His image with glory so we can live with Him and enjoy Him forever.

He made it possible for people to have faith so they could be known as the children of light who knew God as their eternal Father. Eph 5:8

He made it possible so that those who remain faithful to Him could look upon the face of God and live because they would see that they had been made completely holy to reflect the image of their Creator, because they will see Him in all His glory and know who they are.

The Lord Jesus Christ has called all who would know God personally to follow Him and to follow His example as they walk together with God as His church destined for full realisation of His glory.

This fellowship of Communion is maintained by looking to obey Jesus Christ who is the Lord of the church that represents His body on earth.

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."

Col 3:1-4

Those in Christ have fellowship with God and each other. *"What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete."*

1 John 1:3-4

The presence of the Son is the desire of the heart of every true believer. "*Christ dwelling in the heart by faith.*" (Eph 3:17) This is the promise of the Lord for those who keeps His Word. "*We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.*" John 14:23

This presence of the God of glory in our heart is the secret of all peace and hope, joy, and comfort. The faithful have within them the only One who is *able to save to the uttermost*, and will not allow His work to be overthrown. Jesus promised His peace to those who followed Him. "*Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.*" (John 14:1) "*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*" John 14:27

We need the Holy Spirit

William Law 1686 – 1761

“The Spirit of the Triune God, breathed into Adam at his creation, was the one who made him a holy creature in the image and likeness of God. A new birth of this Spirit of God in man is as necessary to make fallen man alive again unto God as it was to make Adam at first in the image and likeness of God. And a constant flow of this divine life by the Spirit is as necessary to man's continuance in his redeemed state as light and moisture are to the continued life of a plant. A religion that is not wholly built upon this supernatural ground, but which stands to any degree upon human powers, reasonings, and conclusions, has not so much as the shadow of truth in it. Such religion leaves man with mere empty forms and images that can no more restore divine life to his soul than an idol of clay or wood could create another Adam.”

The life walked with God requires us to remember Christ our life

Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Gal 2:20

When we are being tested to improve our faithfulness, we often forget who we are as the children learning to grow up in the likeness of Christ. We forget that we are to walk as He walked. We forget that we are to deny ourselves to live for God our Father. We forget that union with Christ means sharing in His suffering so that we can share in His glory.

The regenerate children born of the Spirit are cross bearers for the good of the world for the rest of their lives. If we follow Him, we walk as He walked, confident in the love of God and our eternal security.

As God's chosen children in Christ, we must walk in remembrances of who He is and what He has done and is doing on our behalf, otherwise we will lose sight of our heavenly destination and wander in the valley of the shadows as if we are orphaned, continually complaining that no one loves us.

However, Jesus has bought us into His New Covenant. When we share in Holy Communion, we remember how He died for us so we can live. But we also remember that He is the Lord of the New Covenant, the Covenant that ensures we will be like Him to the glory of God.

And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
1 Cor 11:24-28

Dear hearts, what Jesus Christ has done for us is unbelievable from a human point of view, simply because it is beyond our comprehension. He has given us His glory so that He can be glorified in us and we in Him to the glory of God.

We are glorified in unity with the Father and Son by the Spirit. The unity of God is the glorified unity of everyone in Christ as His body the church, one life one spirit. As Christ is, we will be when He comes to hold us together forever.

Our glorification in Christ is the rock of our salvation and the motivation for the one another ministry of the church. Because we are glorified in Him, we will be compelled by His love to love one another and go into the world and make disciples so Christ is glorified on earth.

If we are unwilling to believe what He has done, we will not be able to live according to His plan for love in the church and witness in the world.

"The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, (with the result) that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me." John 17:22-23

Believe and reveal His glory to everyone you know, and find those you don't know and reveal His glory to them in your love for Him.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Eph 1:18

Matthew Henry

"The riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Besides the heavenly inheritance prepared for the saints, there is a present inheritance in the saints; for grace is glory begun, and holiness is happiness in the bud.

There is a glory in this inheritance, riches of glory, rendering the Christian more excellent and more truly honourable than all about him: and it is desirable to know this experimentally, to be acquainted with the principles, pleasures, and powers, of the spiritual and divine life."

The Spirit of God in us

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart

of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."

Ezek 36:26-27

God gives us a new spirit.

A new spirit means a new life.

A life that is compatible with our Holy God.

A new spirit from God means we are His children.

Then God places His Spirit within our spirit. His Spirit and our spirit are unified in One spiritual life according to His Glory.

This unity of life causes us to live in harmony with His statutes. God gives His children a life able to grow up into His life and He gives us His Spirit to ensure His will can be achieved.

"that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one."

John 17:21-22

"And I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

John 17:26

The Father cherishes the Son seeking His glory. The Son cherishes the Father, seeking His glory. The Father and the Son cherish the children, seeking their glory. So that the love of God will be made complete in the children.

The degree of the level of maturity attained is up to the how much the children cherish God and one another in obedience and truth, according to the revealed will of God. This achieved growth into Christ likeness will determine the level of the rewards they will receive in heaven.

Remember the unbelieving believers, the weeds amongst the wheat. Those to whom Jesus will say: *depart from Me you evil doers, I never knew you.*

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ Matt 7:21-23

Not everyone in the church is destined for heaven and glory.

When God takes away the heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh, He takes away our resistance to His will, and gives us the willingness to receive everything pertaining to life and godliness.

Those who want to be religious without loving God first and living for Jesus and loving God's children by seeking their highest good, still need to be born of the Spirit of God.

The Spirit gives life which is in harmony with God, the natural man is dead towards God.

Pray for the dead that they may see the glory of God in Christ and receive eternal life in Christ.

Application:

We often justify our spiritual incompetence when we accept our sin without due diligence. Instead of examining ourselves and looking at our unwillingness to live up to the glory we have received in Christ in order to reflect His will, we look the other way.

It would seem that because our sanctification isn't complete, and we haven't overcome all our preferences for the flesh, we avoid the daily need to offer ourselves daily as a living sacrifice. What we justify we will

never surrender. Instead of disciplining ourselves to live according to the glory of the Spirit who lives in us, we instinctively abide where we are most comfortable.

However, abiding in Christ means forsaking all our dependence on the flesh, and we experience this through our willingness to yield to the painful pruning of the Vine Dresser.

Until the Lord returns, we all have a tendency to view the world and others from the position of our spiritual incompleteness, thinking we are wise indeed. But wisdom comes from "*the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*"

In order to walk by the Spirit and have the mind of Christ, we must consciously live in the awareness of all that our life in Christ affords. We are chosen to be a holy people, glorified in our union with Christ and one another.

If we make decisions without clothing ourselves with the glorified life of Christ we invariably respond from the perspective of the old life of the flesh.

If we don't accept the fullness of the knowledge of our life in Christ, so that we see ourselves and others from the viewpoint of the glory that is in Christ, then we may claim to be spiritual, but we will be burdened by our fleshliness.

And if we aren't aware of the glory of Christ in the brethren, then we can't really claim to be spiritual. We can't see what we don't have. And if we can't see, we are not able to appraise things from the mind of Christ.

1 Cor 2:15-16

Every shortcoming in our accepting the mutual benefit of receiving the glory of Christ is due to our fleshly thinking. However, the unity of the body of Christ is dependent on our willingness to sustain our shared glory in Christ.

The effectiveness of loving one another in the church, and our missional responsibility to make disciples of all ethnic groups, is dependent on the acceptance of being joined to the glory of Christ with all who are His in the church as cross bearers.

The more we understand our unity in the Son which is made possible by the glory He has given us so we can glorify Him, the more we will be compelled by His love to fulfill His work in the church and the world.

The mind of our flesh is individually compartmented so that our reality is different from everyone else. But we live in a bubble and we make the assumption that we know others as well as we know ourselves, when we don't know ourselves, and we will never know who we really are until the Lord returns.

When we meet brethren who are not in sync with the bubble of our understanding, we immediately reject what the Spirit has taught them by the way of their cross, so that the glory He has revealed to them will not be obtained by us. So, we deceive ourselves when we assume we understand the life of others.

Even if our experience has been similar, we are not the same, our lives are particularly unique. So, if we want to be of help, and if we want to learn from others, we have to begin from the perspective of what God has done in them for His glory and ours.

Therefore it is better that we accept the word of God and always treat others as better than ourselves, especially in light of the knowledge of the glory of Christ in His disciples.

We can't love the brethren from the bubble of our worldly experience that is isolationist. We can love when we die to our fleshly thinking and set our minds on the spirit of the unity of the glory of Christ.

Since we don't know ourselves, we can't expect to claim to know others. So, we love our neighbours as we ourselves have been loved by God. When misunderstood we have patience. When rejected we encourage.

When our help is refused, we show kindness. When criticised we buildup. We do all for the glory of God.

When we are ignorant of the glory given us by the Son of God, we will be in danger of trying to find meaning in the world. His glorification of our hearts is all the meaning we need to live in Him. We worship God best when we worship with the awareness of the glorious life the Son has given to us, and who now lives in us.

Pray for the dead that they may receive life in Christ.

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