

Core Values Series  
Core Value #1 - Working for God's Glory  
2016-10-02

**Scripture Memory Passage - 1 John 5:11-12**

Next month, on November 11 to be precise, we will celebrate a full 5 years of regular meetings as a church. It was November 11, 2011, when a small handful of people gathered together at the log home at Cooper Spur Inn to listen and learn about this new church forming. Some came already committed to the work; others came out of curiosity. We shared a meal together, spent some time talking and getting acquainted, then gathered in the living room of that home and talked about Core Values. From the very beginning of Pillar Bible Fellowship we wanted to be a church with a clearly biblical direction and purpose.

Things have changed some since that first meeting in 2011. We started meeting regularly on Fridays in the living room of our home through the winter of 2011/2012, then we started meeting Sundays at the Mid-Valley Elementary school cafeteria on Easter of 2012, then one month ago began meeting here in Pine Grove. The babies that were in car-seats during our first meeting are now in kindergarten or first grade, families have grown larger, new families and individuals have joined us, Community Groups happen at various times and locations during the week, we've baptized about a dozen people, preached through 11 books of the Bible from beginning to end, grown our team of elders, and are well on our way toward establishing the ministry of deacons. We've rejoiced and celebrated together; we've also wept and mourned with one another. But, although we've gone through a lot together, we still maintain a clear direction and purpose. Our Core Values haven't changed.

This is an appropriate time for us to revisit our Core Values, so over the course of the next 7 weeks we'll be looking at one Core Value each week. We don't want our Core Values only to be a banner on the wall, maintaining a place in our past, but lived out and active among us and through us in the present, and on into the future. Our Core Values serve us as a compass of sorts. They help us determine our ministry efforts, how we approach and pursue those efforts, our function and focus as a church. They help us proactively maintain what is most important instead of reactively responding to the most urgent.

This morning we're looking at Core Value 1 - Working for God's Glory. This Core Value finds its place at the top of the list, and fittingly so. In fact, this morning we're going to talk about the why and the what of working for God's glory, but in the elaboration of the next 6 Core Values we'll really be looking at how we work for God's glory. That is to say, the other Core Values are all subservient to this Core Value, serving as the means to the end of Working for God's Glory.

**Scripture Passage: Various**

**The "Why" of Working for God's Glory**

1. The mission of Pillar Bible Fellowship is "to glorify God by knowing Christ more fully and making Christ more fully known." Why all of this talk about glorifying God? Why do we work for God's glory? Throughout the Bible we see the repeated emphasis on God's glory. We'll see many Scripture references this morning.

1. Before we get to glory, however, let's begin with God. It isn't just glory in general, certainly not man's glory, but God's glory.

1. God is self-existent. **Psalm 90:2** "*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*" God has no beginning and no end, he was not created and doesn't need to be sustained by anything. This is true of God alone.

1. Along with this, God is not dependent on anyone or anything. God doesn't do anything out of a lack or need, but he acts sovereignly out of his good pleasure. He didn't create the world out of boredom or create man and woman out of loneliness. God eternally exists in fellowship, the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We see this most clearly in the Great Commission of **Matthew 28:19** when Jesus commands the disciples to make more disciples and baptize them in the name (one name) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (one God in three Persons).

2. God is holy. In all that he does he reveals his moral perfection and majesty. **Isaiah 6:3** "*And one (seraphim) called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!'*" Holiness is emphasized here, repeated three times (like underlining, **bolding**, and *italicizing* a font when writing). He is most holy, separate from sin, full of light with no darkness at all, radiant and beautiful. Fundamental to God, woven throughout every attribute of God, is his holiness.

3. If God is self-existent, not dependent, and holy, then why did he act in the way he has acted? God has acted for his own glory. You may be familiar with the Westminster Shorter Catechism question 1, which asks, "What is the chief end of man?" It answers that "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." But this is man's chief end because it is also God's chief end. To glorify himself and enjoy himself forever.

1. **Isaiah 42:8** "I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."

2. **Isaiah 48:11** "For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another."

3. This might seem hard for us to understand, and might even seem wrong to us, that God's chief end is his own glory. Doesn't that make someone egotistical? It does with man, but not with God. When we meet someone that is concerned with their own glory, it's a problem because they are finite and sinful, not self-existent and holy like God. **Let me put it to you this way - let's say you know a man whose refrigerator and pantry were empty, his family was dressed in rags, his home was going into foreclosure, but the first thing he prioritized in his spending is his new hunting rifle. What would you say about that man? His priorities are mixed up. His family is suffering; his wife and children, created in the image of God are of so much greater worth than a rifle, so to give such priority to something like that is wrong; it is idolatrous. If God were to seek anything as his chief end other than his own glory, God would be an idolater because he would be seeking something of such less value; giving priority to something that doesn't deserve the greatest priority.**

4. **John 12:28** "Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

2. God's glory in creation - In **Genesis 1** we read of God's act of creating, by the word of his power bringing things into existence out of nothing. At the end of creation, God declared, "it is very good." God wasn't surprised at how well he was able to create, but he is declaring that his creation, which is the expression of his perfect attributes, is very good. **Psalms 19:1** "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." **When was the last time you looked up into a cloudless night sky? Our church rafting trip this summer presented us with an opportunity to behold the glory of God in the heavens. Nobody stayed up late enough to see it fully, but we looked up into the starry sky, which was magnificent enough, and we saw this amazing meteor shower. We see something like that and we recognize how small and insignificant we are, and it should drive us to the worship of the Creator. It is declaring God's glory, his power and majesty, his holiness and beauty.**

1. **Isaiah 43:7** "everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

3. God's glory in redemption - God created everything and it was very good, and man was created in perfect fellowship with God. However, we know that man has become separated from God by sin and is in need of redemption. This is another way in which God manifests his glory.

1. In the Old Testament, God was working to magnify his name by redeeming his people. He delivered them from Pharaoh in Egypt, he brought them to the Promised Land, he drove out mighty nations, and established them as a nation. Even greater is his work of salvation in the NT.

2. **Ephesians 1:3-14** God's choosing us and predestining us for adoption, making us joint-heirs with Christ and sealing us with the Holy Spirit is all to the praise of God's glory. As J.I. Packer says we "contribute nothing more to it except our need of it."

2. Why, then, work for God's glory? Because that is the highest aim we could ever strive for. It is the reason we were created, the reason we were redeemed, that we might magnify the glory of God in our lives.

**Transition:** I hope we're all pretty well convinced that the glory of God is the highest aim, but what does it mean to work for God's glory?

### **The "What" of Working for God's Glory**

1. God's glory is infinite. Jonathan Edwards, in his *Treatise Concerning the End for Which God Created the World*, says that we will spend all of eternity exploring the glory of God, and we will never exhaust it. So we don't add any measure to it, but we can be used to reveal, to bring attention to, to raise awareness of, God's glory.

1. Think of God's glory like an ever-flowing and over-flowing fountain. **2 Corinthians 4:5-7** "For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." We're clay jars, cracked and chipped, but we come to the fountain of God's glory, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we're filled to overflowing ourselves, and the glory of God is seen in our lives by those around us.

1. **Matthew 5:16** "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

2. In **Exodus 34** Moses is on Mount Sinai talking with God. When he comes down from the presence of God the people see Moses' face shining and they're afraid to get close. Moses was reflecting the light of the glory of God to those around him, and it came simply by being in the presence of God.

1. If you want to glorify God, it first begins by spending time in the presence of God, by being in fellowship with God through his Word and through prayer.

2. **Colossians 3:23** "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,"

3. **1 Corinthians 10:31** "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

**Conclusion:** At Pillar Bible Fellowship, we take those as our marching orders. We're not here to glorify any man or woman or to work any agenda other than God's will. In everything that we do, there is one primary question that we start by asking and answering - what would be most to the glory of God in this? Church, it's my prayer, and I know it is the prayer of my fellow-elders, that for another 5 years, 50 years, or as long as the Lord allows before his return, that we would be constantly engaged in Working for God's glory. This is chief among our Core Values, and one that we want all the people of Pillar to take ownership of. In all that you do, in every area of life, with every word you speak, place you go, thought you think, or thing you do, do all to the glory of God.

# Family

## Table Talk



October 2, 2016

### Family Discussion

1. Do you ever have a goal for your day, one thing you have to accomplish no matter what? Do you have an ongoing goal for your days, maybe something you hope to accomplish everyday? Discuss as a family what some of those things are in your life.
2. As human beings, created in the image of God, by God, He has given us a desire to worship and to work. There is no more worthy object of our worship, and no greater goal to work towards, than God and His glory! What does it mean to work for God's glory?
3. As a family, read and consider the passages of Scripture Listed for #3. Then ask yourself how your daily efforts, goals, habits and attitudes can work towards glorifying God above everything else.

### GOD'S TRUTH

We work for God's glory!

### Key Verse

"And one called to another and said: 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

Isaiah 6:3

### TABLE READING

#### Lead your kids into God's Word...

2. GENESIS 1:26-27, GENESIS 2:15; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31, COLOSSIANS 3:23-24; 1 THESSALONIANS 2:4
3. PSALM 90:2; PSALM 19:1; ISAIAH 6:3; ISAIAH 42:8; ISAIAH 48:11; JOHN 12:28; ISAIAH 43:7

#### SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

1 JOHN 5:11-12



"AND THESE WORDS THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY SHALL BE ON YOUR HEART. YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE, AND WHEN YOU WALK BY THE WAY, AND WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, AND WHEN YOU RISE. YOU SHALL BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND, AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONTLETS BETWEEN YOUR EYES. YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR GATES." - DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9 (ESV)

