

B. When the glory of God no longer matters, the church exchanges the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 2:13-23

Question: How do we know the difference between the actual truth of God and legalism?

Hint: see verses 21 through 23

For example:

Hebrews 10:25

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Truth: Christians must gather together for encouragement.

Legalism: “Why were you not in church today? Don’t you know you are letting God and everyone else down every time you miss church, small group, prayer circle, etc.?”

C. When the glory of God no longer matters, the church exchanges the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Revelation 2:1-7

*Note to self*

*I need to think and pray about how I have been substituting the things of God for God himself. Could it be I have made idols out of some very good things?*



# Indescribable

## Why the Glory of God Matters to the Church

I. Why should the glory of God matter to the church?

A. The glory of God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church

Ephesians 1:3-12

Question: What are some of the things that are often suggested to be the purpose of the church?

Question: While most of the things often suggested to be the purpose of the church are good in and of themselves, what happens to the church that emphasizes one or more of these over the glory of God?

B. The glory of God is \_\_\_\_\_ through the church

John 17:20-24  
1 Peter 2:9

Comment: In the passage from John, we see in the words of our Savior the ultimate form of evangelism – a church so united under the unity and leadership of God the Father and

God the Son that the world, when it sees the church like this, may believe that God the Father sent God the Son.

Question: So, this being true, what would be the opposite effect when the church fails to live out the glory of God?

Comment: In the passage from 1 Peter, we read,

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

The Holy Spirit of God through the Apostle of God referred to us in four ways: a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God.

Question: When you think of yourself as a person having been chosen by the Creator himself, to be his special possession, and, ultimately, to be a member of an entire nation of holy and royal priests, how do you see yourself differently than how you typically see yourself?

Question: What kind of changes do you think you can make to bring yourself closer to The Apostle Peter's description of believers?

II. What does it look like when the glory of God no longer matters to the church?

A. When the glory of God no longer matters, the church treats the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 1:4; 5:1,2

Comment: While the Apostle Paul greeted other churches with thanksgiving about their faith and hope and love and giving, the Corinthian Church, because it was so filled with sin and trouble, was greeted with simple (yet very powerful) thanks concerning the grace of God in their lives.

Question: How would it make you feel if you knew the only legitimate thing anyone had to be thankful about regarding you was that God bestowed his grace on you?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1,2.

Question: When people are proud about sin (and note that it was not just the sinner, but the church), what does the church start to look like?

Question: What starts to happen to the church?