



## HCF Core Values

### A High View of God

**A High View of God** - We value God far above everything for He is the most worthy and valuable being that exists. It is imperative to see Him as He really is, the Creator of everything and paragon of all virtue, the Almighty God. It is our utmost desire to glorify God by pursuing a *high view of God*. To know God and to love Him is the all-consuming passion of our lives. The continual proclamation of His character and nature is a fundamental element in our worship. In fact this is the definition of worship, to ascribe worth to God and to see, comprehend, experience and exalt the glory of God.

**We value God far above everything for He is the most worthy and valuable being that exists.** – To say that God is most valuable is an understatement. In fact, God is what brings definition to value. In other words to say that we value God, is to say that we esteem Him, that *we estimate Him to be most worthy* of our adoration, our praise and even our worship. This is obviously because He is the definition of that which is good, honorable and worthy of *high* esteem. As the scripture says,

**Exodus 15:11 - 11** "Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD? **Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?** NASB

Therefore we esteem God above everything else because He is so *high* above, or so much more worthy than anything else because *everything else derives its value in relation to God* because He is the standard for what is good or worthy of esteem, in fact He is the creator of everything. Things derive their value based on the purpose for which they were created.

**Revelation 4:11 - 11** "**Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God,** to receive glory and honor and power; **for Thou didst create all things,** and because of Thy will they existed, and were created." NASB

Why is God worthy to receive glory and honor? Because at His will they "*exist and were created.*" Nothing has its existence except at the will of God. Nothing has its being, except by His design and continued Providence. God deemed it fit and good to create the world and mankind upon it, how could we do anything less than pay Him homage as the high and lofty One. Indeed, *anything less than esteeming God above everything else is entirely sinful*, in fact this is the definition of idolatry and a violation of the first commandment;

**Exodus 20:3 - 3** "**You shall have no other gods before Me.** NASB

More than this, sin in actuality is a failure to glorify God or a failure to properly esteem Him. In fact *the very nature of sin is PRIDE, it is self-exaltation*. It is to say that our will and our desire is of greater value than God's will or God's desire. Rather than esteem Him as Lord and Master(who He truly is), when we sin, we esteem ourselves and our own personal authority as higher than God's. This is the definition of sin, to transgress the law, character and will of God.

**Romans 1:18-22** - 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even **though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks**; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. NASB

Therefore we see the great importance of valuing God for who He is, and honoring Him and giving Him thanks for the gracious gift of life He has given us. The utmost importance of this issue cannot be stressed enough and it is made crystal clear in the scripture.....

**1 Chronicles 29:11-13** - 11 Thine, O LORD, is **the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty**, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone. **13 Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name.** NASB

**It is imperative to see Him as He really is, the Creator of everything and paragon of all virtue, the Almighty God.** – Because God is what brings value and definition to all things, we therefore see the necessity to have a proper estimation of God and who He is, and by this gain a proper estimation of everything else that exists, including ourselves. When we see God for who He really is, we see everything in the universe with that proper esteem that they possess because of the purpose for which God created them.

**Proverbs 16:4 - 4** **The LORD has made everything for its own purpose**, Even the wicked for the day of evil. NASB

To say that God is the creator of all things, is to say that *everything in the entire creation is dependent on God* and His continued providence for its existence. Mankind is dependent on God for our life, our breathe, our food, indeed God is the great Sustainer of life. Apart from His continued providence everything would return to the dust.

**Acts 17:24-25** - 24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, **since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things**; NASB

**Job 34:14-15** - 14 "If He should determine to do so, If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, 15 All **flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.** NASB

More than this, He is the "Almighty God." This is to say He possesses "all the might." **God possesses all power.** God is infinite in power and therefore does whatever He pleases. He does not wait for the approval of men before He acts. Any power that is in the creation is granted by God. God had the creative power to make the universe from nothing, and He sustains the same universe by His power. He has power over life and death and every other thing. He made all things with a very purposeful will, and He possesses the power to execute His divine will and bring His intentions to an expected end. His creation is just a *small example* of his mighty power.

**John 1:1-3** - :1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things came into being by Him**, and **apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being** NAS

**Col 1:16-17** - 16 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 by Him and for Him.** 17 And He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together.** NAS

What do we mean when we say that God is the "*paragon of all virtue?*" This is to say that everything that is good is good because it is in accord with God and His approval of

it. Goodness is that which God approves. Therefore God is the standard of what is good and virtuous. In other words, all things derive their virtue in relation God. All virtuous characteristics flow from the very character of God who is the original virtue or goodness that is in the world.

**James 1:17 - 17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father** of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. NASB  
Be it love or kindness, patience or gentleness, beauty or radiance, holiness or purity.....all of these virtues find their origin in God for He is the height, or paragon of goodness.

**Ps 145:9 - 9 The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.** NAS  
**Ps 36:6-8 - 6 Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. 7 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.**

Good Christian, what should your response be to such statements as these? May I suggest humility.....or thanksgiving.....even your highest praise! He is worthy of it, and you can take that to the bank!

**Psalms 96:4-6 - 4 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;** he is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

It is therefore imperative that we as Christians learn to esteem and value God and His glory above all things! *We must give our minds to the contemplation of God, our strength to the service of God, entrust our souls to the care of God, and give our hearts to the love of God!* He is to be chief among our affections and first in order of importance. To do anything less is foolishness and self-destruction! Shall we seek life and its fulfillment in every place except from the place it comes, God? Shall we look for love in all the wrong places when all the while the scripture tells us that “God is Love!” Indeed love and fulfillment can be found in God, and Oh how willing He is to grant it. But friends, He must become our passion, He must become the center of our lives, our marriages, our families and our churches! We must be **God-centered!**

Listen friends..... the universe revolves around God and His purposes, not ours.

**1 Corinthians 10:31 - 31** Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever **you do, do all to the glory of God.** NASB

**It is our utmost desire to glorify God by pursuing a high view of God.** – This is to say that we value worshipping God above all other endeavors because God has defined this as our highest priority. We must therefore value God above every other thing. He is worthy of exaltation and praise. *This is the reason we were created. It is to glorify and exalt the majesty and glory of the Living God!* This is the highest activity that can be performed and the most fulfilling thing that can be done. It is the only thing that fills the natural void in the heart of man. It is the first and great commandment and the great goal of God in history. It is for Him to be worshipped according to the splendor of His majesty, which is higher than any other thing. He must therefore be supreme in our affections, and the thing to which we ascribe value and worth. We are to worship God!

**Psalms 96:7-9 - 7** Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, **Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name;** Bring an offering, and come into His courts. 9 Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. NASB

God does everything He does for this end. That is for the sake of His Glory! Consider this quote from Pastor John Piper from his book “Let the Nations be Glad”;

“God is central and supreme in His own affections. There are no rivals for the supremacy of God’s glory in His own heart. God is not an idolater. He does not disobey the first and great commandment. With all His heart and soul and strength and mind He delights in the glory of His manifold perfections. The most passionate heart for God in all the universe is God’s heart.”

Friends, if God’s great delight is the beauty of His glory, what do you suppose should be ours? The bible is plastered with such statements which describe the passion of God for His own Glory. Here Isaiah makes it crystal clear.

**Isaiah 48:9-11** - 9 For **my own name's sake** I delay my wrath; **for the sake of my praise** I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off. 10 See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. 11 **For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.** NAS

The Lord says He will not yield His glory to another. Indeed mankind has been commanded by God to **“give Him glory” and worship His holy name.** Indeed there is coming a day when the whole earth will be filled the knowledge of God’s Glory!

**Habakkuk 2:14** - 14 "For the **earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD.** As the waters cover the sea. NASB

More than this, every man and woman will give an account to God for either their worship of His Glory or the failure thereof.

**Philippians 2:9-11** - 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God the Father.** NASB

Dear friends, God will have His glory from His creatures. The question is will we glorify Him willingly and be the receivers of His blessing, or will we glorify Him on that dark Day of vengeance when He will take it forcefully, and thus be numbered with those poor souls who will be recipients of His jealous wrath and shut out from His presence eternally?

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-12** - 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** 9 **And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,** 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power; **12 in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him,** according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. NASB

Oh dear Christian, live your life in such a way as the Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in Him! This is the great purpose for which we were made. How then will we arrive at this place of glory you ask? We will pursue it! We will seek the glory of God with everything that is within us! We lift up our eyes to heaven to gaze upon the loveliness of His manifold beauty, and worship Him with humble and pure hearts of devotion and love! We will esteem God, and love Him, and seek the honor of His great name in all that we do! And so the Apostle prays for us.....

**Ephesians 3:14-21** - 14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 **may be able to comprehend with all the saints** what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 **and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled**

**up to all the fulness of God.** 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, **21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus** to all generations forever and ever. Amen. NASB