



HCF Core Values

A High View of God - Part 3

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.

The continual proclamation of His character and nature is a fundamental element in our worship. - As we have discussed, we have a very high view of God. Therefore it only follows naturally that we must learn of Him. Because God is incomprehensible in so many ways, it is a constant endeavor to learn of all the glorious attributes of God. God is glorious. His glory consists in the overwhelming and overflowing beauty which stems from the sum total of all His attributes working together in perfect harmony. God is perfect in His holiness, justice, wisdom, power, grace, mercy, and love. As the scripture declares...

Deuteronomy 32:1-4 - "Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth. 2 "Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As the droplets on the fresh grass And as the showers on the herb. 3 "**For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God!** 4 "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. NASB

God is so magnificent, so awesome, so wonderfully mysterious that it will take us many ages and ages to experience the glory of His riches. His resources and His attributes are inexhaustibly vast.

Ephesians 2:7 - 7 in **order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus. NASB

As we have seen, this is our great duty, it is to know and to love and to worship God. Therefore we press on into a greater knowledge and understanding of His being, His character and His nature, we seek to know who God is and what He is like. As this knowledge becomes more and more clear to us, we then have a further understanding of His purposes and ways, and gain deeper insight into who we are, why we exist, and how we can glorify God. Clear knowledge of God from the Bible is the kindling that sustains the fires of affection for God. It causes us to be raptured away into the glory of God and His wonderful being. God's greatness can hardly be comprehended but we are told again and again in scripture to tell of His wonderful greatness to the generations below us.

Psalms 145:1-5 - I will extol Thee, my God, O King; And I will bless Thy name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless Thee, And I will praise Thy name forever and ever. 3 **Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.** 4 **One generation shall praise Thy works to another, And shall declare Thy mighty acts.** 5 On the glorious splendor of Thy majesty, And on Thy wonderful works, I will meditate. NASB

To make God the center of our preaching and our corporate worship is to say that we are **“God-centered.”** This of course would be in contrast to being “man-centered” which would be humanism. As we said last week.....

“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

Dear family if this be true, then God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, the three in One and beauty of all of His manifold perfections must be central to our lives, and our worship! Therefore, we will continue to proclaim the attributes of God, His character and His nature on a regular basis so that we can conform our thinking to His wonderful person.

Exodus 15:11; Psalm 145:5, Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; I Peter 1:16, Psalm 99:4; Luke 19:7-8; Hebrews 6:10, Romans 11:33; I Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 3:10, Isaiah 44:24; Job 9:12; Jeremiah 32:17, Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:4, 7-9; Romans 3:24) (I John 4:7-8, 16; Romans 5:18; John 3:16.

In fact this is the definition of worship, to ascribe worth to God and to see, comprehend, experience and exalt the glory of God – To worship is to “ascribe worth to something.” It is to honor OR lift up and exalt something above ourselves and to savor and cherish its nature and virtues. Since God is the paragon of all virtue, then to **“see and comprehend”** His virtue is to ascribe worth to the MOST WORTHY things. Because God is the most worthy and highest, the most transcendent and glorious of all, then the truest and highest form of worship is to ascribe greatness and glory to God.

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. 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

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

This is the great priority of the pastor-teacher. It is to explain and expose the text of scripture to the minds of God’s people so that they can **“see and comprehend”** the glory of God and the splendor of His glorious attributes.

Nehemiah 8:1-8 - 8:1 And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked **Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses** which the LORD had given to Israel. 2 Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men,

women, and **all who could listen with understanding**, on the first day of the seventh month. 3 And **he read from it** before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and **all the people were attentive to the book of the law**. 4 And Ezra the scribe **stood at a wooden podium** which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. 7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place. 8 And **they read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading**. NASB

Consider then the “*experience*” of the glory of God in worship. When we are able to comprehend the glory of God by understanding the great truths about His person and nature, then we are able to experience the wonder of His mysterious and incomprehensible nature. As the Spirit of God brings illumination to the Word of God, bringing understanding to the God’s character and nature, His ways and means, and the purposes of God, we experience the “unveiling” or “revelation” of God and “partake in the divine nature.”

2 Peter 1:2-4 - 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that 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. 4 For by these He has granted to us **His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. NASB

The benefit of true worship is the transforming process it carries out upon us. As we ascribe worth to God and value and truly treasure His attributes, we become like Him. Because these are the things that we value, if we truly value them in our hearts, then our sincere desire to possess these values will motivate us to treasure and cherish them and this will transform us into His image as the scripture clearly teaches.....

2 Corinthians 3:18 - 18 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. NASB

Therefore, on the basis of the fact that God is the highest and most worthy of all, and that the truest form of worship is to see and comprehend His truth, we seek to always “exalt Him” or “lift Him up.” In fact it is this that God has commanded us to do again and again, and it becomes for us the highest and most powerful benefit we can possess.