

Glorifying God

Introduction. On September 26, 2021, the Las Vegas Raiders defeated the Miami Dolphins in overtime to begin their season 3-0, their best start since 2002. Quarterback Derek Carr, in a post-game interview, deflected credit for the team's success saying, "All of the self-glory — that stuff is fleeting,"

The Fox interviewer told Carr that he's playing with confidence and command like an MVP. Carr responded, "I've been through that stuff before ... all I want to do is glorify {God}. Then he added, "And so if it's a win, awesome. If it's not, I'm still going to glorify Him."

On Carr's web page he says, "The three most important things in my life are faith, family, and football." "Being a quarterback is what I do but it does not define who I am," Carr affirms. "I am first and foremost a follower of Jesus Christ."

I don't know anything about Derek Carr's religious affiliation, but I do know this: All of life is about glorifying God. The psalmist exclaimed, "I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore" (Psalm 86:12).

Glorifying God is about acknowledging and revealing the majesty and splendor of God. By what we do, we represent God's nature with dignity and excellence. Therefore, glorifying God goes beyond just attending a worship assembly in a church building. It's a mindset, a lifestyle, and a responsibility in every relationship.

For the next several minutes, let's reflect on four situations and experiences in which God is glorified through our daily lives.

I. We Glorify God By Our Good Works

- A. In Jesus' sermon on the mount He urged His followers to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-15). In doing so, He said others will see "your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (v. 16).
- B. Little acts of kindness and deeds of service don't go unnoticed either by those who are recipients of our ministry or by the Lord (Acts 9:36, 39; Philippians 4:14-16). Create within yourself a culture of service.
- C. A kind word, an encouraging note, a phone call, a text message, a lawn mowed, a meal served, or even a simple cup of cold water glorifies God (Matthew 10:42; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 2:6-7, 11-14). We should want to "abound in the work of the Lord," not languish in it (1 Corinthians 15:58).

II. We Glorify God Through Our Moral Purity

- A. In a world gone mad with lust, license, and self-gratification, Christians view morality and sexual relationships differently. After admonishing the Corinthian brethren to "Flee sexual immorality," Paul offered this rationale: "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).
- B. When we resist being squeezed into the world's mold of morality and are spiritually transformed, we glorify God (Romans 12:1-2). When we refuse to run with the wild crowd pursuing a life of debauchery and dissipation (wild living), they may think it strange, but our choice glorifies God (1 Peter 4:1-4). So

especially for our younger ones, when you say no to wickedness in front of others, you have glorified God and proven yourself worthy of eternal life.

III. We Glorify God When We Behave Honorably

- A. Peter says that even evildoers, while they wrongfully accuse us, can “see our good deeds and glorify God” (1 Peter 2:11-12).
- B. When we suffer persecution, abuse, and ridicule for our religious convictions, without retaliation or revenge, we glorify God. If you’re willing to lose your job, home, family, and even your life because you follow Jesus, then you’re an authentic Christian.
- C. Again, in His sermon on the mount, Jesus said that steadfastness when you’re being reviled is a mark of blessedness (Matthew 5:10-14). The lack of retaliation when it would be so easy glorifies God (vv. 38-48). This practically means that we’re able to control how we respond to hatred and vitriol, even when it happens online. It means that we calmly accept it instead of exploding in rage.

IV. We Glorify God When We Work Diligently

- A. Not everyone has a professional platform like Derek Carr to express their faith. You’re probably not going to be interviewed by Fox News or CNN at your workplace, or job site. But you can glorify God in the quality and excellence of your work (Proverbs 12:27; 13:4; 19:15).
- B. Even slaves in New Testament times were commanded to work not with “eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man” (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25; cp. Proverbs 6:6-11).
- C. Martin Luther King, Jr. expressed this idea eloquently when he said, “If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, ‘Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.’”

Conclusion. Anne Graham Lotz was correct when she wrote, “Our ultimate aim in life is not to be healthy, wealthy, prosperous, or problem-free. Our ultimate aim in life is to bring glory to God.” Today, tomorrow, and this week, remember each day and in every way, you and I are called to glorify God.

I am deeply indebted to Ken Weliever for the use of his material.