

The Image and Glory of God Part 2

Small Group Questions ([audio here](#))¹

1. What does God expect from men (See Romans 13:14 & 2 Peter 3:18)? What does this mean? How are we labeled by what we wear?

We are to become Christ like, growing in the grace and knowledge of Him. It means that to be masculine is to be made more in to the image of Jesus. Just as we are defined by others by what we often times wear, we are to be so identified in our souls by “wearing” Christ. Growth in to masculinity is growth in to Christ likeness. The more we look like Jesus, the more we look like Adam in the garden, before the Fall. He is the image of the invisible God - We are created in the image of God.

2. Men are called to walk with an Eternal Mindset (John 4:34, 5:30; 8:28-29, Luke 4:1, 14). What kinds of heart attitudes accompany an Eternal Mindset?

Seeking God's will over my own (meekness); pressing His agenda, not mine. A surrendered heart that says, not my will, but yours be done. Compassion toward others, especially the downtrodden. Always desiring to give the gospel to others. Having an eternal mindset erodes a sense of entitlement and fills the heart with joy and gratitude.

3. Is your mindset eternal or does it lean more towards “make me happy, fix my life, bless me, make things go my way?”

Much of our modern pragmatic thinking is geared to a strain of the prosperity gospel which says that God will make everything better here and now. All things are not made right until the new heavens and the new earth are revealed (Revelation 21:5).

4. How do you develop an Eternal Mindset?

Unfortunately, for us, there is not a formula. It takes a heart of surrender that seeks God and desires the things of God. As Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1, 14) we should ask God to fill us with His Spirit and to reveal, lead and guide us. It also involves taking stock of one's own heart and asking what is the real object of worship in my life - what do I look to to define me; what is to object of my faith? We should ask God:

“Isaiah 66:2 — “But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”

I.O.U.S is one prayer that helps us to humble ourselves before reading God's Word. You might consider printing it out and sticking it in your Bible.

Piper explains:

Ask God to Incline our hearts to him, not to money or fame or power (Psalm 119:36),

and to Open our eyes to see wonderful things in his Word (Psalm 119:18), and to Unite our hearts in the fear of God rather than let them be fragmented over a dozen concerns (Psalm 86:11), and to Satisfy us with his steadfast love (Psalm 90:14).”²

Above all, we need God to change our hearts and to help us to understand how big, holy and magnificent He is and how small and depraved we are as we proclaim with the Psalmist: “what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?” (Psalms 8:4 ESV) and “O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him?” (Psalms 144:3 ESV)

5. Do you see the gospel or temporary external comfort as your primary need when life is difficult?

It is common for us to think that the externals are the real problem in our lives (difficult situations, jobs, marriages, children, health). There is nothing wrong with asking God to remove those, change those or heal those situations. But, when that is the singular subject of our prayers, when that is what we think will relieve our pain, we miss the point. God is sovereign, which means that no difficult situation that we are experiencing has not first been filtered through His hand - often times to help us to understand the gospel more clearly in our lives; to press his mercy and grace deeper in to our souls.

6. What would you say is the focus of your spiritual life: becoming more like Christ or making your life work better or easier?

Great question that gets to the heart of what we really treasure in life.

7. How does having an Eternal Mindset help when cultivating a world that wars against us?

It gives us profound perspective. Having an eternal mindset helps us because we realize that everything does not terminate on us and there is something far better than this world. We begin to understand what Peter meant when he said that we are “aliens and strangers in the world” (2 Peter 11). We were built for perfect paradise (in Eden) in sync with God, but that paradise was fractured because of sin, but God is rebuilding Eden - that is where our hearts and minds should be focused, the dwelling place of God. (Revelation 21).

8. Do you feel as though God owes you particular things (i.e. blessings, good life, loving wife, children that obey, etc)? What is your attitude when you don't experience good things, and what is your attitude when you do?

Romans 11 is a good text to read through to gain perspective on being entitled. Also “What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7 ESV). We should understand that God is teaching us the Gospel

through difficulty (not as punishment, but as discipline) and we should be profoundly grateful when things are good, because He owes no man anything and this too is a gift from His hand.

9. Jesus exhibited an attitude of love and understanding. Explain how Jesus exhibited love and understanding to others but was not passive (see Matthew 4:23, Luke 4:18-21).

Jesus was always on mission to extend the mercy and grace of God - reconciliation and redemption was His mission. But, He could not be characterized as passive. Recall Him turning over the money changer's tables in the temple and warring with the religious elites. Passivity is not something that fits with Jesus. It is important to note that He did extend an attitude of love and understanding when He could - we was not looking for a fight!

10. Should we passively accept difficulties in life or should we petition God to change the way things are (see Luke 22:42)? What did this look like in the life of Jesus?

NO! We should actively bring our requests before God, just as Jesus did in the garden. We should be persistent, but we should at the end acknowledge that God is sovereign, that His perspective is infinite and that He is good. Take this cup from me, but not my will be done. See also Luke 18:1-6 and 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.

11. Jesus tends to be more compassionate when people's sins are dark by our standards and much more aggressive when sins are more religious in nature. Why do you think that is the case?

Because the religious claim to know and walk with God, but their hearts betray their confession. They are hypocrites. Jesus attacked the religious establishment for their hypocrisy. See Matthew 23:13-26.

12. Jesus took initiative and walked in courage. Are you decisive when it comes to what God has called you to do or are you hesitant?

An eternal mindset helps us to be decisive.

13. Do you need to pray about and seek council on obeying what God has already revealed to you in his Word (God's moral law)?

No...If God has revealed it in His word, we should obey without question.

14. Jesus was humble. How could the Creator of the universe allow His creation to nail Him to a cross? How does Jesus' humility impact you and your sense of entitlement (Philippians 2)?

The Creator of the Universe who sustains all things by His word becomes confined to the fallen fleshly human body to live, obey, love and die so that we - His enemies - could be reconciled to Him. He bore the unbridled just wrath of His holy Father on our behalf. All of the rage and wrath due our rebellion was poured out onto the Creator. Unbelievable!

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11 ESV)

15. Why should we consider the characteristics listed as qualifications for church leadership as things to strive for, even if we aren't seeking those offices (see 1 Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9)?

Because these are men that we should strive to model our lives after. These qualifications embody what a faithful man of God being made into the image of Christ looks like.

16. Define each of the following and note those that you need to improve upon.
- Above reproach. Blameless, not able to be accused, having a good reputation. Strong reputation with those inside the church and outside the church. He is not prideful, not perfect, but hard to accuse him of anything.*
 - The husband of one wife. Exhibits a pattern of singular affection for one's wife. He does not use his God given energy to cultivate fantasies about a wife and life that was easier. He, instead, pours his energy in to His wife, not his dream about some magical woman who is perfect. This is a profound heart issue! Porn is a problem because it gives you an unrealistic picture of something that you are never going to experience!*
 - Sober Minded. He is temperate, alert, clear-headed, watchful. He doesn't snap, doesn't fly off the handle. Gets anger, but in his anger he doesn't sin.*
 - Self Controlled. He is in control of thinking, emotions and passions; prudent, thoughtful. He is in control of pullings and longings of his heart.*
 - Respectable. He is orderly in time, responsibilities and behavior; not chaotic. Above reproach idea.*

- f. **Hospitable.** *He is welcoming to others, loves strangers, serves others. Men, as God designed them, like people. They don't isolate themselves and their families. They have friends.*
 - g. **Gentle.** *He is considerate, gracious, patient, kind in dealing with others. They aren't jerks. Kind and compassionate. Not self absorbed and demanding.*
 - h. **Manages his household well.** *He governs, presides over, has authority over; is faithful to lead spiritually, cares for, protects; has children who are not riotous or insubordinate; oversees and/or fulfills affairs of the home. Protects, cares for watches over. Invested in his family. Serves his family.*
 - i. **Lover of good.** *He loves virtue and good men. Hangs out and around guys who love God, love others and pursue Christ. Hangs around with those who stir up love and good affection within them. Virtuous men love other virtuous men. You want to sharpen each other, you want to get better. Good men serve their wives, lead their homes well, love God. Good men are drawn to this and other men grow agitated with.*
 - j. **Upright.** *He is just; upholds righteousness.*
 - k. **Holy.** *He is pure, devout.*
 - l. **Disciplined.** *He is persevering, steadfast, restrained. Live their lives in a way that there is a constant training for godliness and a discipline around their responsibilities. They are intentional about pursuing Christ, warring against sin.*
 - m. **Holding firm to the Word.** *He learns and upholds sound doctrine; holds to it tightly; able to exhort and convict. Able to teach it. Men of God are men of the Word. They love the Scriptures and the God who wrote the Scriptures.*
17. The list below are characteristics that should not be part of a godly man's life. Define these and honestly evaluate which ones you need to improve upon.
- a. **Drunkard.** *He is not addicted to strong drink. Not mastered by anything, even caffeine.*
 - b. **Violent, quarrelsome, quick tempered.** *He is not violent, quickly angered, explosively angry. Inclined to anger habitually; quickly angered; bullying.*
 - c. **Lover of money.** *He is not covetous, greedy for money, materialistic. There is much gain in godliness and contentment.*
 - d. **Arrogant.** *He does not push his own ideas, desires, goals or gain. He is meek. Not overbearing.*

18. What is your motive for developing (or avoiding) these characteristics in your life? Is it to earn favor with God?

Our motives should be to know and become like Jesus more each day. Obedience birthed out of legalistic duty normally produces a self righteous spirit.

Recommended Resources:

Luke Sermon Series ([here](#))

¹http://fm.thevillagechurch.net/resource_files/audio/200808140630HWC21ATAAB_MattChandler_MBS2008bPt2-TheImageAndGloryOfGod.mp3

²*How to Get God's Attention.* <http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/how-to-get-gods-attention>