

## Delighted in by God

### John 13:31-35

The biblical concept of glory comes from the word kabod which is translated weight and implies a sense of heaviness or weightiness. When Jesus says “the Son of Man has been glorified” he is referring to the very weightiness of God being given to Himself. In this series, we have defined “joy” as the moments when we get a glimpse of God’s presence. We can further define it as the moments when God’s glory becomes evident to us. There are moments we glimpse that glory and we recognize the wonder as a reality or a language that we only understand in part now. As people of God, we move away from thinking of glory as a reward for something significant we have done, and we embrace the understanding of glory as an attribute of God that we are given out of pure grace.

1. The word for glory in the bible, kabod, has a direct translation of weight. How are the concepts of glory and weight related to one another?
2. In society, people receive glory for what they have done. What does it mean to you to be a recipient of the glory of God as a gift?
3. Does receiving God’s glory as a gift make it less valuable?

As people, we like to think that we deserve the things that we are given. Consequently, one of the first responses to being given God’s glory is to think about what we have to do to deserve it. Since our only comparison is the way glory is conferred here on earth, we strive to earn God’s glory by being perfect in all we do. We strive to have significance through success. Unfortunately, when we find our value in comparison, we can

- believe we deserve God’s glory, and become puffed up with pride.
- idolize those more successful or deserving, and become ashamed of who we are.
- dismiss or belittle the gifts of others, and become hostile or small minded.
- try to be like others, and become exhausted.

Our calling is to love each other and embrace differences. More significant than being a “perfect person” in a “perfect church” in the “best nation” is the knowledge that we are walking around with immortals -those who have been claimed by Christ for eternity. The weight of glory is the great significance that has been dumped on each of us by Christ. We experience joy as we recognize God’s glory in God-self, in our self, and in others.

1. How is shame related to the concept of “significance through success”?
2. How does recognizing God’s glory in others help us to “love one another” as Jesus commands?
3. Institutions, nations, churches will all come to an end. However, we are walking around with immortals. How does that knowledge affect how we interact with one another?