

**“Inquirers’ Class”**  
**(Part 4: The Christian Life)**

**IV. The Christian Life.**

**A. What is the purpose of our lives?**

1. We are to live for God’s glory.
  - a. “What is the chief end of man? A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.”
  - b. We are to glorify Him.
    - (i) “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).
    - (ii) “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36).
  - c. And we are to enjoy Him/find our pleasure and delight in Him. “Whom have I in heaven *but You*? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For, behold, those who are far from You will perish; You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You. But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works” (Psalm 73:25-28).
2. What does it mean to glorify God?
  - a. It means no longer living to bring honor to ourselves: “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me’” (Matthew 16:24).
  - b. But living to bring honor to the One who bought us with His blood: “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body” (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
  - c. This includes not only spending a few hours on the Lord’s Day in public worship, but living our whole lives for His glory: “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1-2).
3. Why should we live for God’s glory?
  - a. Because God made us and takes care of us.
    - (i) “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:26-27).

- (ii) “He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the labor of man, so that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine which makes man's heart glad, so that he may make *his* face glisten with oil, and food which sustains man's heart” (Psalm 104:14-15).
- b. Because God loved us and sent His Son to die for us.
  - (i) “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).
  - (ii) “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf” (2 Cor. 5:14-15).
- 4. How can we live for God’s glory?
  - a. We came into this world self-centered and completely adverse to God: “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another” (Titus 3:3).
  - b. But God, in His mercy, saved us: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:4-7).
  - c. We are enabled to live for God only by His grace, and once we are, it is our pleasure to live for His glory (see above, Psalm 73:25-28).

## **B. What is the standard God has given us by which to live?**

1. The standard is the Ten Commandments.
  - a. The Ten Commandments are a summary of all that God requires of us.
  - b. It’s the standard by which we know our sin and measure our repentance.
    - (i) Sin is defined by the Law: “Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4).
    - (ii) Sin is the failure to measure up to that standard in any way.
2. Has this standard passed away with the Mosaic Covenant?
  - a. The New Covenant is defined by the writing of that standard/Law on our hearts.
    - (i) “For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. For finding fault with them, He says, ‘Behold, days are coming, says the LORD, when I will effect a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in my covenant, and I did not care for them, says the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write

them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Heb. 8:7-10).

(ii) When God redeems us, He turns us from sin to righteousness by giving us a love for that Law.

(a) “Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds” (Titus 2:14).

(b) “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).

(iii) This is why Paul expresses his high admiration for that Law, “So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good” (Rom. 7:12).

b. The Ten Commandments have been the standard from the beginning, were codified on Mount Sinai, and written on the hearts of God’s people by His grace in the New Covenant (those who truly trusted in the Savior before He came also had these commandments written on their hearts).

3. What does God reveal regarding His will through the Ten Commandments?

a. First, He tells us that we must worship Him alone: “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Ex. 20:3).

(i) We must take the true God and Him alone to be our God.

(ii) What defines the true God?

(a) He is triune: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(b) “God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His Being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth” (SC 4).

(c) He is the God who reveals Himself in the Holy Scripture.

(iii) We must worship Him alone.

(iv) What are some of the “gods” that men replace Him with today?

b. Second, we must worship Him in the way He commands: “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments” (Ex. 20:4-6).

(i) What did the Lord do in the Old Covenant when His people tried to worship Him through an idol?

(a) The golden calf the Israelites made at the foot of Mount Sinai was their attempt to worship the Lord, “He took *this* from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.’ Now when Aaron saw *this*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow *shall be* a feast to the LORD’” (Ex. 32:4-5).

- (b) What happened to them? “About three thousand men of the people fell that day” (v. 28). “Then the LORD smote the people, because of what they did with the calf which Aaron had made” (v. 35).
- (ii) What did the Lord do in the Old Covenant when His people became innovative in worship?
- (a) “Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘It is what the LORD spoke, saying, “By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored.”’ So Aaron, therefore, kept silent” (Lev. 10:1-3).
- (b) When Korah, Dathan, Abiram sought to intrude into the priestly office without a call, the Lord also judged them: “Moses said, ‘By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these deeds; for this is not my doing. If these men die the death of all men or if they suffer the fate of all men, *then* the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD brings about an entirely new thing and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that is theirs, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have spurned the LORD.’ As he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them split open; and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah with *their* possessions. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. All Israel who *were* around them fled at their outcry, for they said, ‘The earth may swallow us up!’ Fire also came forth from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering the incense” (Num. 16:28-35).
- (c) Even though we don’t see the Lord judging His people like this for their violations of His worship, these examples should cause us to pause and reflect upon how seriously God takes His worship.
- (iii) How can we know what is pleasing to God in worship?
- (a) Should we determine this merely by what makes us feel good?
- (b) Should we determine this by how many people attend?
- (c) The only right way is to worship the Lord the way He commands us to in His Word.