

Living on the Resurrection Side of Life:  
“Resurrected Glory”  
John 17:1-11

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William Barclay says “It was in their death that the great ones found their glory.” I’ve been thinking about that statement, and I believe it is true.

Abraham Lincoln had his enemies in his lifetime, but even those who had criticized him saw his greatness when he died. Joan of Arc was burned as a witch and a heretic by the English. But some people left the scene saying “We are all lost because we have burned a saint.” Martin Luther King, Jr. was ridiculed as a radical, a rabble-rouser, and a dangerous communist in his lifetime, but is hailed today as a prophet.

Maybe that’s what Jesus had in mind when he turned his eyes toward heaven and prayed, “*Father, the time has come; glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.*” The one who endured the shame of the cross brought salvation to a broken world. It was in their death that the great ones found their glory.

On our way to Holy Communion today, I want us to think about “Glorifying Christ,” lifting him up and offering him our finest acts of praise. In my life, Lord, be Glorified – one prayer that really matters.

**WHY GLORIFY CHRIST?**

Our text today says there are two good reasons.

He has given us ETERNAL LIFE. Verse 2 – “*For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given me.*” Eternal life, quality life, abundant life, life that has no end.

Our first thoughts of eternal life are along the lines of everlasting life, life without end, in the presence of God. And, we do believe in the “resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.”

Eternal life for John was different. It had to do with quality more than quantity. Eternal life is Godly life, life as God designed it to be.

Sandy and I talk a lot more these days. We are trying to make each moment count. The other night I said, “What if all this immortality stuff is a hoax? What if it is nothing more than a far-fetched dream designed to soften the blow of death? What if this life is all there is?”

Without hesitation Sandy replied, “It wouldn’t change a thing. A Godly life is still the way to live. It is the right way to live now!” That is so true.

Christ has given us eternal life, because he has shown us the NATURE OF GOD. *Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God.*

It is disrespectful to say all religions are the same. All religions are not the same. If you are a Hindu, God is pure Spirit with no personality whatsoever. If you are a Muslim, God is the Final Judge whom you must please to enter Paradise. If you are a Jew, God is Elohim, the Holy one with a glory so bright that humans cannot see his face and live. If you are a Christian, God is our Father who art in heaven who loves his children unconditionally and provides for them continually.

Jesus said, *“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”* Jesus came to show us the true nature of God.

Even as a child I was moved by the stories of missionaries coming home from work with primitive tribes sharing the joy that came to uneducated, uninformed people when they discovered that every tree, brook, hill, mountain, river, and stone was not a god that had to be appeased. Oh, what a relief it is to know that God is not hostile to humanity. The one true God is loving. Everybody needs to know WHO God really is. For when we find a better God, we become a better people.

### **HOW CAN WE GLORIFY CHRIST?**

We can glorify Christ by the LIVES WE LIVE. They have obeyed your word. In my life Lord, be glorified! If that is your prayer, how do you put it into practice?

**With Integrity** – I am always a little leery of people who advertise their business as a Christian business. They certainly have a right to do so, but I am just a little suspicious. Integrity to me does not consist of words, but actions – an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay, a fair deal on a product, a truthful, trustworthy guarantee. I’d rather see integrity in action than hear about it any day. When I live an ethical life, I glorify Christ.

**With Devotion** – The most abused commandment of our day must surely be *“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”* Who keeps a Sabbath anymore? Are we paying a price for it personally, relationally, spiritually, and socially? I know we are busy people. Our work hours and stress levels are up. Our sleep and family time are down. If God stopped to “take a breath” one day in seven, why do we think we can ignore this fundamental principle of life?

Not because you have to but because you need to, why not set aside one day a week for rest, worship and interaction with family? You will save gasoline, it will help the environment, and it could save your life. In my life, Lord, be glorified.

Through Service – Some families pack lunches that they keep in the car to give to the homeless begging on the street corner. It is a caring, concrete, compassionate thing to do. Some people volunteer at homeless shelters, tutor children, help

with after-school care, teach Vacation Bible School, or other random acts of kindness. Find your own way to serve the least of these.

We can glorify Christ by the WORDS WE SPEAK.

My grandmother was a shouting Methodist. She praised the Lord with heart and soul and voice. One of her former pastor's wives sent me a letter a few weeks ago recounting her experience of my shouting grandmother. "The first time she shouted in a worship service, it scared the heebie-jeebies out of me," confessed Ellen. We might have the same response, although a little less dignity and a little more delight in worship might do us all a world of good.

Most of us will not be shouting Methodists. Some of you get anxious when I get a little loud. Blame it on my grandmother. But we can glorify Christ by the words we speak day by day.

I asked my publisher the other day, "How do you sell books?" His reply was simple – "Word of Mouth." All the catalogues, promotions, advertisements, and marketing in the world do not replace the simple statement of one person to another, "I read a really good book the other day, you ought to read it."

What is true of books is true of the gospel. I like to define evangelism as one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. Have you learned to incorporate the mighty acts of God into your normal conversations? We need not be pushy nor proud, just honest and genuine. In my life, Lord, be glorified. One way to do that is to put in a good word for Jesus whenever a good word would help the situation.

So Jesus ends his earthly life with a prayer. This prayer in John 17 is really the Lord's Prayer. He prays for himself. He prays for his disciples. And he prays for us, that we may be united together as one. As we gather at the Communion Table, let this prayer ring true as we glorify Christ and seek to serve him with our undivided devotion. In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.