

The great purpose toward which each human life is drawn
is to glorify God
and to enjoy Him forever.

Each member of the church glorifies God
by recognizing and naming His glory,
which is the manifestation and revelation of His own
nature.

Each member of the church enjoys God
by being so united with Christ through the power of the
Holy Spirit
as to become a participant in that divine nature,
transformed from one degree of glory to another
and escorted by Christ into the loving communion of the
Trinity.

So we confess our faith not as a matter of
dispassionate intellectual assent,
but rather as an act by which we give God glory
and announce our membership in the body of Christ.
We trust that when God's glory is so lifted up
and when His nature is thus made manifest in the
life of the body,
the church will be a light that draws people from every
tribe and tongue and nation to be reconciled to God.

ECO Essential Tenets

- Chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever
- Do we wake up every morning amazed that we are loved by God?
- Do we allow our day to be shaped by God's desire to relate to us?
- Christian Discipleship is not a question of our own doing, it is a matter of making room for God so that he can live in us
- In the school of adoration the soul learns why the approach to every other goal had left it restless (Douglas Steere)
- Prayer...Praise...changes things—mystery—it changes us

Psalm 95

How Worship

- Community—all plural
- Truth—Submit to revelation—not your view but God's view
- Spirit—In God's presence—recognize the presence of God and the God who is Present
- Sabbath Rest—not harden heart—believe, trust, obey
- Vs. 1 with emotions
- Vs. 6 with our will—language of submission
- vs. 8 with our mind—think, reason
- Worship results in change
- Psalm 46:10—Be Still....Know That I am God

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation . It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete until it is expressed

Lewis argues that the more perfectly we can praise an object, the greater our enjoyment, and the worthier the object, the more intense this delight would be.

We cannot merely believe in our minds that he is loving or wise or great . We must praise him for those things — and praise him to others — if we are to move beyond abstract knowledge to heart - changing engagement .

Learning to praise changes us—it develops love for God—what we love is basically what we are.

Adoration—spontaneous yearning of the heart to worship, honor, magnify, and bless God

We ask for nothing but to cherish him. We seek nothing but his exaltation. We focus on nothing but his goodness. In the prayer of adoration we love God for himself, for his very being, for his radiant joy. Adoration is selfless devotion.

Luke 24:53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Richard Foster

- Thanksgiving is a subcategory of praise
- Thanksgiving is praising God for what he has done
- Praise is adoring God for who he is in himself
- Romans 1:18-21 — For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him...
essence of sin — not giving thanks — living illusion that we are self-sufficient

Tim Keller

There are three basic kinds of prayer to God .

There is “ upward ” prayer — praise and thanksgiving that focuses on God himself . We could call this the “ prayer of awe . ”

Then there is “ inward ” prayer — self - examination and confession that bring a deeper sense of sin and , in return , a higher experience of grace and assurance of love . That is the prayer of intimacy .

Finally , there is “ outward ” prayer — supplication and intercession that focuses on our needs and the needs of others in the world . This prayer requires perseverance and often entails struggle .

Prayer moves from a grounding in God’s nature (why we can ask) to the petition (what we want) to the aspiration (what we will do with it if we get it). It is remarkable how this pattern combines praise with petition, sound theology with deep aspirations of heart, and concrete goals for our daily life.

Tim Keller

Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes:
why God doesn't act the way we want God to, and why I don't act the way God wants
me to.

Prayer is the precise point where those two themes converge (Author unknown)

Two problems

1. We make God in our image, we form our own concepts of God, the God we wish—in
praise we discover the God who is revealed as the center of life, history and scripture
2. We suppress God's revelation of himself—his self-existence, self-sufficiency,
transcendence, justice, mercy, grace, love, sovereignty and holiness—move to
holiness...Rev. 4:8

Anatomy of Praise—Hallowed Be Thy Name

1. Our Father
2. In Heaven

We need to be aware of Both

Luther: This prayer destroys our own life, for in this we die to self in order to honor God.
It is a prayer of repentance and confession. Everything depends on our willingness to
honor God and let work in our lives. Let God be God surrender to him

Praise is corrective—it allows me to be who I am, I am not God—but He is God/Holy

New Testament Prayer

Vision of God's Glory

John 17

1. Glorify me that I may Glorify you (is your goal really to glorify God). May I conform to your agenda
2. Not start with needs but God's glorification—

Ephesians prayers—eyes enlightened, know riches of God's glory, filled with fullness of God

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Mountain—place of prayer

Place of security, clarity, majesty—senses filled with beauty/glory

Obstacles—

Inattention-caught up in whirl of life

Wrong kind of attention—cat at door—analysis

Greed-want more—not enjoy what have—want more

Conceit—proud/smug

Learn-watch observe—see mountains/butterflies—tarry

Grateful center—point of reference to face struggles

Gratitude—live day in thanksgiving—balance every complaint 10 gratitudes
and every criticism with 10 compliments

Use Psalms—Psalm a day

Music

Celebration-dance

Pray with....

- Humility
- Honesty
- Sympathy/Compassion
- Expectancy
- Seriousness
- Unity
- Forgiven
- Ps. 46:10