

Living for the Glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31)

MAIN IDEA: *The ultimate goal of the Christian life is that every part of life—ordinary and extraordinary—glorifies God.*

WHAT IS TRUE & WHAT TO DO: *God did not create and save His people merely to survive, chase comfort, or build their own little kingdoms. He made us, placed us where we are, and redeemed us in Christ so that our lives would display His worth and point others to Him. Jesus perfectly glorified the Father in everything He did. He lived, spoke, worked, obeyed, suffered, and loved for the Father's glory. Believers are now called to reflect His life in their daily choices. Therefore, Christians should first examine their everyday habits—work, relationships, speech, recreation, money, choices, and priorities. And then, make decisions based on what most honors Christ. Learn to see your whole life as a platform for worship.*

CONTEXT: Paul writes 1 Cor. 8–10 to help believers think through difficult questions about Christian liberty, especially eating food associated with idols. The Corinthians were asking, in effect, “What am I free to do?” Paul answers that question by teaching them to ask a better one: “What most honors God and helps others?” That is where 1 Corinthians 10:31 comes in. It is not dropped into the chapter as a random spiritual slogan. It’s Paul’s summary principle for everyday life. He says, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” Paul uses ordinary things—eating and drinking—to make a very large point. He is saying God’s glory is not only for church services, mission trips, sermons, or obviously spiritual moments. God’s glory is to shape even the most normal parts of life. And that is why this passage belongs so well in our series. We have seen that spiritual maturity includes new life in Christ, abiding in the Word, prayer, walking by the Spirit, holiness, endurance through trials, serving the body, stewardship, and generosity. Now Paul helps us see the larger purpose beneath it all: the whole Christian life is to be lived for the glory of God. This matters because many people quietly divide life into two parts: 1) the “spiritual” part and 2) the “ordinary” part. They may think worship happens at church, but work is just work. Parenting is just parenting. Eating dinner is just eating dinner. Running errands is just running errands. But Paul says no—even those ordinary parts belong under the lordship of Christ and can be lived for the glory of God. And that fits with the larger teaching of Scripture. God created all things for His glory in passages like Isaiah 43:6–7 and Psalm 19:1. He placed nations and people where they are according to Acts 17:24–27, which means where you live, where you work, and where God has stationed you are not accidents. And Christ saves us so that our lives might declare His excellencies, as in 1 Peter 2:9. So the Christian should not ask only, “How do I get through life?” But, “How does my life point to the greatness of God?”

1. GOD’S GLORY IS THE HIGHEST PURPOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (v.31a)

- A. **Paul gives the governing principle** — “Do everything for the glory of God.” This is not one spiritual option among many. This is the great aim that should govern us.
- B. **God’s glory means God’s worth, greatness, and honor put on display** — We do not add glory to God as though He lacked it. We glorify Him by living in ways that reflect His worth. To glorify God is to live in a way that says, “He matters most.”
- C. **The Christian life is NOT centered on self**— The world says “live for yourself.” Paul says, “Live for God.” Spiritual maturity means shifting from self-centered living to God-centered living. Your life is meant to display God’s worth.
- D. **Application:** What is the main thing I’m living for? Comfort? Success? Recognition? Security? Family Reputation? My own plans? Or the Glory of God? A mature believer increasingly asks, “What would make God look worthy in this?”

2. GOD’S GLORY REACHES INTO ORDINARY LIFE (v. 31b)

- A. **Paul uses eating and drinking on purpose** — “Whether you eat or drink” are ordinary actions. God’s glory belongs in daily life, not just “religious” moments.
- B. **Everyday life is NOT spiritually neutral** — Meals, conversations, entertainment, work, rest, family life, purchases, reactions, habits: all of these can either honor God or dishonor Him.
- C. **Ordinary faithfulness matters to God** — A person can glorify God at work by honesty, diligence, humility, and integrity. A mother or father can glorify God in patient love and daily sacrifice. A student can glorify God in effort and truthfulness. A retiree can glorify God in service, wisdom, and steadiness. An employee can glorify God by refusing gossip and cutting corners.
- D. **Application:** People ask, “How can my ordinary life matter to God?” Paul answers: *by doing ordinary things in a God-honoring way.* Ask: “Am I working in a way that honors Christ? Am I spending my free time in a way that honors Christ? Am I treating my body, my money, and my relationships in a way that honors Christ?”
- E. **Illustration:** Think about a name badge or uniform at work. The way you act while wearing it reflects on the company you represent. In a much greater way, Christians bear the name of Christ. The way we live in ordinary life says something about the God we claim to serve.

3. GOD’S GLORY SHOULD SHAPE OUR DECISIONS AND PRIORITIES (v. 31c)

- A. **“Whatever you do” widens the command** – Paul does not stop at food and drink. He expands it to everything. That means every area of life falls under this verse.
- B. **The right question is not merely “Can I?” but “Should I?”** The Corinthians were asking liberty questions. Paul lifts them higher. Not just: “Am I allowed?” But: “Will this honor God?” “Will this help others?” “Will this reflect Christ well?”
- C. **God’s glory helps us make decisions** — It helps with entertainment choices, work habits, money use, friendships, speech, conflict, social media, rest, ambition, and family priorities (Mt. 5:16, Col. 3:17, 23–24, 1 Pet. 2:12, 2 Cor. 5:9).
- D. **Application:** Before you make a choice, ask: “Will this honor Christ? Will this make me more useful for God’s purposes or less? Will this strengthen my witness or weaken it? Will this help me love God and others well? Or not?”
- E. **Illustration:** Some people live by whatever is easiest, most enjoyable, or most profitable. But the mature Christian learns to ask a better question: “What would most glorify God here?” That question changes the way you spend money, use time, treat people, and even respond when nobody is watching.

4. GOD’S GLORY GIVES MEANING TO WHERE GOD HAS PLACED YOU

- A. **Your location in life is not accidental** – Acts 17 teaches that God determines times and boundaries. Where you live, work, and move is under God’s providence.
- B. **Your life is part of God’s larger purpose** – That includes the places He has put you: your workplace, neighborhood, family, school, and church (Mt. 5:16).
- C. **Work is a stewardship, not an idol** – It can be sinful if it takes God’s place.
- D. **Ordinary callings have eternal significance** – Your job puts food on the table, but it is also part of your witness, stewardship, and an occasion to reflect Christ (Col. 3:23–24, 1 Pet. 2:12, Titus 2:9–10).
- E. **Application:** Ask: “Have I treated my job as a god instead of a stewardship? Am I so consumed by work that I have little energy left for God? Do I see my station in life as where God has placed me, and also as a mission field and a stewardship? You are not there by accident.” Ask, “Who has God placed around me to influence, encourage, or serve?”