

Created to glorify God in your body

Introduction

WHAT are you? WHY are you here?

= crucial questions... and we're being given answers all the time.

Listening to GOD's answers... from the whole the Bible... focusing on 2 key passages:

Genesis 1:26-27, "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them."

1 Corinthians 6:19-b-20, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

1. We exist to bring glory to God

God is glorious!

Weighty and substantial... beauty and worth... perfect wisdom, power and goodness
Revealed in creation... and in salvation... and especially at the Cross (John 12:23)

Human beings especially are made to bring glory to God

The "image" of God – like a mirror...

But why do we find it so hard to reflect glory to God?

We get distracted... we are self-obsessed... and we create false gods...

e.g. sex or binge-watching = the god of feeling good
overwork or not sharing = the god of wealth and stuff
never saying "no" or telling lies = the god of reputation

But seeking God's glory is for our good!

So, will you seek to glorify God and enjoy him forever?

2. We're called to glorify God in our bodies

God has given each of us a body and a soul = what you are

Soul in the Bible = "soul... heart... mind... understanding..."

Not physical... but can hear, understand, choose, act

Body-and-soul go together

E.g. "You are sitting down" – think about it! Your body is sitting... YOU are sitting.

Why does this matter? Because God wants ALL of you

We're not just bodies or complicated machines – but have souls which love and hate, reason and choose, and which WORSHIP

We're not just souls: our bodies really do matter

And the Lord wants us all: body and soul to glorify Him

3. We glorify God as Male and as Female

God has designed it that all his images are *either* Male images *or* Female images

Our bodies are not just containers for the soul, the shape of which is irrelevant.

They are a gift from God which help determine who you are.

We are all *either* HE or SHE – never an "it"

Praise God for HOW he has made you. Will you now seek to bring Him glory, with both body and soul... either as a man or as a woman?

Sometimes it is HARD to receive God's gifts with thanks: we sin and we suffer

Our bodies don't work as they ought

Our desires / feelings are faulty too

But HERE is the place from which to face our suffering and our sin:

*With the Holy Spirit's help,
I'm called to steward my body and soul
as a man or as a woman
for the glory of God.*

Because, Jesus owns me!