



No Glory from People

John 5:41 **I do not receive glory from people.** 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 **How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?**

Do you receive glory from people???

How would you know if you do???

Jesus, who is worthy of all glory, NEVER sought glory from people. He was completely satisfied to have God alone glorify Him.

It isn't even possible to have the kind of "belief" that is a belief God acknowledges unless three things are true of you:

1. You refuse all of man's attempts to glorify you.
2. You do nothing to draw man's glory to you.
3. You only allow God to confer His glory to you.

How challenging this is to our flesh. We so desperately want to be recognized, valued, and honored, that we'll do just about anything to get it.

Why do we do this? Because inwardly we are uncertain of what God's glory will look like, but we know exactly how good it feels when men glorify us. We become addicted to praise, and make a vast array of decisions commensurate with our longing for man's applause.

What do we do when we do this? We evidence that we don't really believe in God. To believe rightly in God is to KNOW that He will give His glory to us. It is His pleasure to do this! But it will look and feel differently when it comes from God and not men.

Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

John 17:22 And the glory which you gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

The more we enter His kingdom, and let His kingdom life permeate all that we are, the more we come to know that our identification and inheritance is so complete in Him that we don't need what man can give to us.

Such knowledge and faith is truly freeing. It means I will not seek from man what God alone wants to give me. I will not allow man to manipulate me into a place where if I do what they want done they will give to me what my flesh desires...security and significance - money, power, applause, opportunities, etc.

This is what made Jesus so unique. Nobody owned Him. He wasn't on anybody's leash. No one said to Jesus, we'd like to have you speak to us on this subject, but we don't want you to speak on that subject. He didn't acknowledge man's systems of control and honoring. He did what He saw His father do, and He spoke what He heard Him speak, whether it pleased people or not.

We are called to walk in the exact same manner.

God is calling many men and women leaders out of the traditional Church, and He is calling them to a completely different kind of leadership than they have ever known. A leadership that takes its cues exclusively from Jesus, and makes no decisions based on a perceived enhancement to one's calling and opportunities.

Paul took to heart Jesus' words, and pen's the following personalized rendition of the exact same thoughts:

Gal 1:10 For **am I now seeking the approval of man**, or of God? Or **am I trying to please man**? If I were still trying to **please man**, I would not be a **servant of Christ**. 11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a **revelation of Jesus Christ**.

1. Never seek man's approval for anything you do in God's kingdom, because you are called to operate out of His approval alone. Of course, this presupposes you have taken the time to obtain His approval, that you distrust your own ideas of things, as much as you distrust other men's ideas, and that you have the kind of integrity that will not speak what you haven't heard clearly in God, and if you do speak something you are uncertain of you will have the honesty to tell your hearers that you are sharing what you "think" you have heard in God.
2. Never give a thought to pleasing men in places where you already know what action would please God. Paul isn't advocating an arrogant and stubborn self-willed approach to others, as if a disdainful demeanor glorified Christ. Nothing could be further away from what he was teaching. He spoke humbly, out of brokenness, without arrogance and a dismissive attitude, but when it came time to either side with man's ideas of things or God's it became very clear where Paul stood. He was gentle but he was firm. He was gracious but he was unbending.
3. Never allow yourself to first and foremost be the servant of others. Such service will lead you to make decisions based on protecting your territory, your reputation, your open doors, your opportunities, etc., and away from honoring Christ by saying what He wants said.
4. If people don't believe you speak from revelation of Christ then you have no business speaking among them anyway, and if what you are speaking is not from revelation then you have nothing to say. This is not to say that we have the same right to speak in the fellowships of believers, things we know they are going to be unable to receive, due to the conditioning they have received through years of traditional teaching, but it does mean we will not speak what they expect to be spoken, that is in agreement with the errors they embrace. In those cases love and wisdom would generally dictate refraining from certain subjects. Only Jesus deserves and required absolute freedom to speak whatever He believed appropriate for each situation. No human minister has the right to expect such an open door, nor should minister as if he is incapable of being wrong.

Revelation, not your wit, not your intellect, not your knowledge of the original languages, not your scope of biblical knowledge and doctrine, not your articulate communication skills, etc., is the only thing that will set men free, form Christ within them, and glorify God.

We are living in a day where God is calling thousands of ministers out of the institutional systems of men, and each of us have much to learn about what it means to refuse to receive glory, and the manipulations of man, and to live as a servant of Christ. This is a challenge to each of our self centered inner systems. We've all been conditioned in ways we hardly know to detect. The Spirit of Christ is taking men and women, around the world, out of those systems, into the wilderness of His inner re-toolings, and will introduce them to His broader Church when He is ready. They will look and act very different from the men and women they were before.

Their faces, like Jesus', will be set towards the purposes of God not man, even, as in Jesus' case, if it means they will suffer the reproach of man, closed doors, lost opportunities to minister, and dishonor.

Luke 9:51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, **he set his face to go to Jerusalem.** 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, **because his face was set toward Jerusalem.** 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

I love the attitude of James and John, though I think I understand why Jesus didn't. I think it's kind of funny though. They wanted to kick a bit of butt for the people's attitudes towards Christ. Obviously this is not God's way of handling things, but I'm sure Jesus appreciated their attitude of honoring Him before the people's rejections.

Notice though, apparently there was a wide open door of ministry among the Samaritans which closed when He made it clear He needed to get to Jerusalem to accomplish the will of the Father. They were just sectarian enough that if He was with the folks in Jerusalem then He wasn't with them in Samaria. How much this is like systems Christianity. One denomination opposes another, and everyone is trying to get the corner on Jesus. Jesus' set face tells us He was with one Person alone - The Father.

Such a determination must prevail among the newly emerging leaders in the body. God will have a leadership that follow His cues, not man's. It may cost this leadership honorariums, prestige, a nice meal after speaking, but no matter, these new leaders are not man pleasers, they are servants of Christ.

For these changes to take place a whole new inner belief system must be developed. I must believe that God, not man, is my source. I must believe His approval is what matters the most. I must trust that my usefulness to Him does not demand my kissing up to people who dishonor Him. I must believe that my time in the wilderness of His dealings will have a perfect timing to it, and will bring forth a vessel useful in the Master's hands.