

GOD IS LIFE
Philippians 1:20-23
Identity, 1



We are beginning a new series that examines who we are as a church. These are our core values at Trinity Chapel Bible Church. They form our identity. Besides shaping the way we do things as A church, they also provide a blueprint for how we should individually be living our lives. They show us how to love God and love one another. This is going to be an amazing study. Of course, it all depends on what you put into it. Here's a challenge: *make this the best study ever*. Love God and one another by putting your all into this weekly time together.

Ted always manages to find amazing quotes that illustrate his points perfectly. They also serve as fantastic discussion starters. Pick one of the two below and share thoughts, impressions, observations, and responses.

- The chief end of man is to glorify God *by* enjoying Him forever.
 Westminster Catechism (adapted by John Piper. He inserted "by" in place of "and.")
- Worship is the desire to honor and adore the Trinity as the supreme treasure of life.
 Adele Ahberg Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*

Exalting God . . . verse 20

- satisfies the deepest longing of our lives**
- reflects the worth and value of Christ above all things**
- requires courage**
- shapes what we do ("in my body")**
- defines us in any circumstance ("life and death")**

- How did Ted explain what it means to exalt God? How do our values shape how we act and live?
- What does it look like to exalt God by serving others? Why is boredom such a threat to our passion for God?

We exalt God when we . . . verses 21-23

- seek to know Christ above all other things ("to live is Christ")**
- love others above ourselves ("fruitful labor")**
- treasure Christ as gain above all other things ("to die is gain")**

- What does it mean to seek Christ above all else? What is the connection between loving & serving others?
- What does Paul mean by "to die is gain?" How can these points be a grid for evaluating our lives?

Observations

- Exalting God requires the understanding that Christ is the supreme treasure.**
- Exalting God requires the time to focus on Christ and enjoy Him.**
- Exalting God requires the choice to give ourselves to others.**

- "Our passion is for Christ or anything else." What do you think about this statement? Where is your passion?
- When do you find time to focus on and enjoy Christ? How are you actively giving yourself to others?

My discipline . . .

Kathy Smith shared her experience exalting God through prayer in the video clip we watched Sunday morning. She explained how that was a time when she recognized how great God is and how dependent she is upon Him for everything. How do you exalt God? Give two examples and explain what this looks like in your life.

1. _____
2. _____

Prayer

Please pray for the community of believers at TCBC. Ask the Father to give us courage to seek Him above all else. Praise Him for putting us into relationships with one another where we can actively exalt Him by truly loving those around us. Ask Him to enable us to be real, honest, and accepting of one another. Finally, ask the Father to bolster the leadership of the church, volunteers, and the shepherds leading our Community Groups.