

This midweek study will explore the doctrine of glorification. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Glorification

Glorification is the final stage in the process of salvation. It refers to the future time when a Christian reaches moral and spiritual perfection at the time of death or at Christ's return (Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:22). Glorification also involves the physical perfection that we will have once our bodies have been resurrected. When we are glorified, we will have a fuller knowledge and understanding of God and His Word (1 Cor. 13:12; Phil. 3:20-21).

1 Our glorification includes moral perfection: we will sin no more (Rom. 6:7; 7:21-24).

- ▶ How would you describe your current relationship with sin? Are you comfortable with it? Fighting it? Conquering it?
- ▶ What do you think it would take for you to defeat sin once and for all?

Read Romans 7:21-24.

- ▶ How did Paul characterize his relationship with sin? Do you think his experience is normal or unusual for Christians? Why?

Read Romans 6:7.

- ▶ According to this verse, what is our relationship with sin like after we die?
- ▶ If we no longer struggle with sin once we die, will we struggle with it when we are resurrected?
- ▶ Why do you think we don't struggle with sin in our resurrection body? (Hint: Why do we struggle with sin now? What will we be missing in new heavens and earth? Answer: the desire to sin)
- ▶ How does this news affect you? Explain.

2 Our glorification includes physical perfection: a resurrection body (1 Cor. 15:42-44, 1 John 3:2).

- ▶ What are some of the miracles Jesus performed during his time on earth?
- ▶ Why do you think so many of His miracles included healing?
- ▶ How did Jesus' healing miracles foreshadow our resurrection bodies?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-44.

- ▶ How did Paul describe our new resurrection bodies?
- ▶ What kind of physical characteristics will our new resurrection bodies have?

Read 1 John 3:2.

- ▶ How did John describe our resurrection bodies? What was Jesus' resurrection body like? So, what will our be like?
- ▶ Does this news excite you? Why or why not?

3 Our glorification includes spiritual perfection: seeing God (Matt. 5:8; John 17:24; Rev. 22:4; 1 John 3:2).

- ▶ Why do you think God will give us perfect, immortal resurrection bodies? Why wouldn't He just make us eternal spirits?
- ▶ What do you think the single greatest blessing of our glorification will be?

Read 1 John 3:2 again.

- ▶ Look at how John phrased the second part of the verse. Why will we be able to see Jesus as He truly is? So, why will God give us perfect resurrection bodies? Why do you think our current bodies are incapable of seeing Jesus as He truly is?

Read Matthew 5:8 and Revelation 22:4.

- ▶ What do these two verses give as a blessing of the glorified body?
- ▶ Do you get excited at the prospect of seeing God? Why or why not?
- ▶ What do you think Jesus' greatest wish for us would be?

Read John 17:24.

- ▶ What did Jesus pray for us? When will this prayer be answered? Why do you think Jesus prayed this?

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ Imagine one of your friends says, "I'd love to be a Christian, but the idea of an eternal church service sounds so boring." How would you answer this person?