

John 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

Analysis

Jesus contrasts self-generated testimony with testimony that comes from God. Self-seekers pursue their own glory, seeking human recognition and authority. But Christ seeks the Father's glory alone, making His witness true. The Reformed emphasis on God's glory (*soli Deo gloria*) finds expression here - ministry that exalts God rather than self authenticates divine calling.

Historical Context

Jewish legal tradition required multiple witnesses for valid testimony (Deut 19:15). Jesus addresses this concern while asserting that His unity with the Father provides sufficient witness.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you test whether you seek God's glory or your own?
2. What distinguishes self-promotion from faithful ministry?

3. How does pursuing God's glory affect the truthfulness of your testimony?

Interlinear Text

ο	ἀφ'	ἐαυτοῦ	λαλῶν	τὴν	δόξαν	τὴν	ἰδίαν
G3588	of	himself	He that speaketh	G3588	glory	G3588	his own
G575		G1438	G2980		G1391		G2398
ζητῶν	ο	δὲ	ζητῶν	τὴν	δόξαν	τοῦ	πέμψαντος
he that seeketh	G3588	but	he that seeketh	G3588	glory	G3588	that sent
G2212		G1161	G2212		G1391		G3992
αὐτῷ	οὗτος	ἀληθής	ἔστιν	καὶ	ἀδικία	ἐν	αὐτῷ
him	the same	true	is	and	unrighteousness	in	him
G846		G227	G2076	G2532	G93	G1722	G846
οὐκ	ἔστιν						
no	is						
G3756		G2076					

Additional Cross-References

John 5:41 (Parallel theme): I receive not honour from men.

John 12:28 (Glory): Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

1 Thessalonians 2:6 (Glory): Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

Proverbs 25:27 (Glory): It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

Matthew 6:9 (Parallel theme): After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Numbers 11:29 (Parallel theme): And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

1 Peter 4:11 (Glory): If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

John 8:54 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

John 11:4 (Glory): When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

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