



Touching Lives  
with James Merritt



**SERMON SINGLES**

**It's Not About Me**

*1 Corinthians 10:23-31; 11:1*

**INTRODUCTION**

**NOTES**

An unknown person once said, "There are two great moments in a person's life. The first is when you were born; the second is when you discover why you were born." That leads me to make one of the most arrogant statements any pastor could ever make to anybody. If there is a God and if that God has revealed himself in the Bible, and if the Bible is God's word and true, then I can confidently, though it may sound arrogantly say, "I know the purpose for which every person was born." Now we may not carry that purpose out the same way throughout our lives, but nevertheless we were all born for the same purpose. Paul in one simple sentence gives us the one purpose for which we were created. It is the purpose of the church. In fact, in the grand scheme of things it is the purpose of everything. The reason we exist individually, why do we exist as a church, why did God create anything or anyone? Here is the purpose, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31) Now here is the kicker. We will never understand our purpose, or accept our purpose, or practice our purpose unless we understand one thing about our lives – it is not about me.

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**KEY POINTS**

**1. Seek God's Glory**

What do we mean by "the glory of God?" The word "glory" means "something that is worthy of complete praise and honor." It refers to the greatness, the grandeur, and the goodness of God. One thing to keep in mind, too, is that God doesn't just deserve glory. He is glory. He is the only being in all of the universe who is glorious, who radiates glorious. In one sense, He doesn't need us to give Him glory so He will have it; He already does! If we didn't praise God, exalt God or give God glory He would still be glorious, great and good.

We are to give him glory. We are to recognize his glory. Why? Because He deserves it and because He is God. You don't add to His glory. When you don't give God glory you don't take away from His glory. Our major purpose is to talk and walk in such a way that we always recognize His glory, exalt His glory and proclaim His glory.

## **It's Not About Me**

*1 Corinthians 10:23-31; 11:1*

### **2. Share God's Grace**

When you seek God's glory you will then do the greatest thing you will ever do for anyone else – you will share God's grace. you are either a part of the church of God or you are not. Paul's point is we should never be a stumbling block to an unbeliever coming to Jesus or a stumbling block to a believer in getting closer to Jesus. They may be offended when we share the gospel, but they should never be offended by the way we live the gospel.

So with that in mind, what is the end goal? Paul shares it in his letter to the Corinthians, "Even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved" (I Corinthians 10:33). Our number one desire for everyone on this planet is in those last five words, "That they may be saved." Nothing brings more glory to God than when we share God's grace and people respond to God's grace.

### **3. Show God's Goodness**

Paul was so committed to seek God's glory and share God's grace he could say, "Follow me in the way I live, because I am following the way Christ lived." How did Jesus live? Here is what he said at the end of his life, "...it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 'Father, glorify your name!'" (John 12:27-28).

Jesus came to glorify God His father. If you think about it, everywhere Jesus went He not only was seeking God's glory, but He was sharing God's grace and He was showing God's goodness. What Paul said about his life we should say about ours. We should live our lives in a way that clearly shows God's goodness to everyone we encounter.

### **NOTES**

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# Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

## **It's Not About Me**

*1 Corinthians 10:23-31; 11:1*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. Do you seek to glorify God with the way you live, or do you often find yourself living for your own glory?
2. When was the last time you shared God's grace and His gospel with someone else?
3. If you were to ask the people you came in contact with today if you showed them the goodness of God by the way you lived, what would they say?

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