

# THE CHALLENGE OF *Self-Glorification*

IN THE APOSTOLIC  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH



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*Written by*  
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The statement “Jesus is not glorified because man wants to glorify self” speaks to a critical issue that affects not only individual believers but also the broader church community. This idea emphasizes the tension between self-promotion and true worship, highlighting how the desire for personal recognition can detract from glorifying Jesus Christ. Here are some reflections on this theme:

### The Problem of Self-Glorification

1. **Human Nature:** At the core of this issue is human nature, which often inclines individuals to seek validation, recognition, and glory for themselves. This desire can manifest in various ways, such as striving for attention in worship, seeking leadership roles for personal prestige, or promoting oneself over the collective mission of the church.
2. **Distraction from Christ:** When the focus shifts from glorifying Jesus to glorifying oneself, it creates a distraction that can hinder genuine worship and spiritual growth. The essence of worship is to honor and exalt God; yet, when individuals seek the spotlight, the attention that should be directed toward Christ is diverted.
3. **Competition and Division:** A self-centered approach can lead to competition within the church. Instead of fostering an environment of support and

encouragement, individuals may become envious or critical of one another. This division undermines the unity that is essential for the body of Christ to function effectively (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

## Showmanship and Professionalism in the Pulpit

In contemporary settings, there is a troubling trend of showmanship and professionalism in the pulpit. Many preachers have become exhibitionists, focusing on performance rather than the powerful message of the Gospel. This shift can lead to a superficial experience that prioritizes entertainment over genuine spiritual conviction.

1. Definition of Exhibitionist: The term “exhibitionist” refers to someone who seeks to attract attention or admiration, often through flamboyant behavior. In Hebrew, the concept can be related to the word *ra’ah* (ראה), meaning “to see” or “to behold,” implying a desire to be seen or noticed. In Greek, the term can connect to *theatron* (θέατρον), which means “theater,” suggesting a performance rather than authentic ministry.

2. Definition of Showmanship: Showmanship refers to the skill or ability to present something in an entertaining or impressive manner. In Hebrew, the

word can be associated with tiferet (תִּפְאֶרֶת), meaning “glory” or “splendor,” which can imply a focus on outward appearance. In Greek, the term can relate to apodeixis (ἀπόδειξις), meaning “demonstration” or “exhibition,” emphasizing the showy aspect of presentation rather than the substance of the message.

## The Call to Glorify Jesus

1. The Purpose of Worship: Worship is meant to be an expression of love, reverence, and adoration for Jesus Christ. When believers genuinely seek to glorify Him, they acknowledge His sovereignty and grace. The focus should be on lifting Him up, as seen in John 12:32, where Jesus says, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

2. Humility and Servanthood: Jesus exemplified humility and servanthood throughout His life. In Philippians 2:5-7, Paul encourages believers to adopt the same mindset as Christ, who humbled Himself for the sake of others. When believers prioritize serving others and glorifying God, they reflect the character of Christ and fulfill their calling.

3. Living for His Glory: The ultimate goal of a believer’s life should be to glorify God in all things (1 Corinthians 10:31). This involves aligning one’s actions, words, and motives with His will. By doing

so, individuals can become vessels through which God's love and truth are communicated to the world.

## The Example of Peter on the Day of Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost serves as a powerful example of authentic preaching that glorifies Jesus. When Peter stood up to preach, he was filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke with conviction. His message was not based on personal opinion or denominational doctrine but was rooted in the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. Acts 2:36: Peter boldly proclaimed, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." This declaration emphasized Jesus' divinity and authority, calling for a response from the people.

2. Acts 2:38: When the crowd was pricked in their hearts and cried out, "What shall we do?" Peter directed them to the only plan of salvation: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." This message, rooted in the teachings of Jesus, led to the conversion of about 3,000 souls.

3. Filled with the Holy Ghost: Peter's preaching was not merely a performance; it was empowered by the

Holy Ghost. His body was full of Jesus, who is the Holy Ghost—the resurrection power at work within believers. This authentic encounter with God led to true transformation and conviction among the listeners.

## The Impact of Self-Glorification

1. **Hindrance to Spiritual Growth:** A focus on self can impede spiritual growth. When individuals are preoccupied with their own desires for recognition, they may neglect their relationship with God and the growth of their faith. True growth occurs in an environment where Jesus is at the center, and believers are encouraged to seek Him above all else.
2. **Witness to the World:** The church's witness to the world is compromised when self-glorification takes precedence over glorifying Jesus. The message of the gospel is one of humility, sacrifice, and love. When believers reflect these qualities, they become a powerful testimony to the transformative work of Christ.
3. **Restoration of Focus:** To restore the focus on glorifying Jesus, individuals and church communities can engage in practices that promote humility, such as prayer, fasting, and serving others. These spiritual disciplines help cultivate a heart that seeks to honor God rather than oneself.

## The Challenge of Glorifying Jesus

1. The Centrality of Christ: The Apostolic Pentecostal Church emphasizes the oneness of God, asserting that Jesus is the singular manifestation of the divine. This belief is foundational to its theology and practice. However, when the focus shifts from glorifying Jesus to seeking personal recognition, the core message of the church can become diluted. True worship and community life must center on Jesus as the one and only God, reflecting His character and teachings.

2. Self-Promotion in Worship: In many church settings, the desire for personal visibility can overshadow the worship experience. Individuals may seek to be seen and heard, prioritizing their own agendas over the collective aim of glorifying God. This self-promotion can create an environment where worship becomes more about individuals' performances rather than a genuine expression of reverence and adoration for Jesus.

3. Distraction from the Gospel: When the emphasis is placed on personal recognition, it detracts from the powerful message of the gospel. The Apostolic Pentecostal movement is rooted in the teachings of Acts 2:38, which emphasizes repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. If believers are more concerned with their own



visibility, the transformative power of the gospel can be overshadowed, leading to a weakened witness to the world.

## The Call to True Worship

1. **Authentic Worship:** Authentic worship arises from a heart that seeks to honor God above all else. The Apostolic Pentecostal Church calls its members to reflect on their motives and ensure that their worship is directed toward glorifying Jesus. When the focus is on Him, the church can experience true spiritual growth and unity.

2. **Embracing Humility:** Jesus modeled humility and servanthood, teaching that greatness in the Kingdom of God is found in serving others (Matthew 20:26-28). By prioritizing humility over self-promotion, believers can create a culture that values the glorification of Jesus and fosters genuine community.

3. **Community Impact:** When believers collectively seek to glorify Jesus rather than themselves, the church can become a powerful witness to the world. This unity in purpose can lead to a more profound impact in the community, drawing others to the message of Christ.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the statement that “the reason why we can’t have Apostolic Pentecostal is because Jesus is not glorified as the one and only God but rather man wants to be seen and heard” underscores a significant challenge within the church. It highlights the need for a return to genuine worship that prioritizes the glorification of Jesus above personal desires for recognition. By focusing on Christ as the one true God, the Apostolic Pentecostal Church can fulfill its mission to reflect His love and grace in the world, creating a vibrant community that embodies the essence of true worship and service.

Furthermore, the statement “Jesus is not glorified because man wants to glorify self” serves as a poignant reminder of the need for humility and authenticity in the Christian life. It challenges believers to examine their motives and strive for a heart that genuinely seeks to uplift Christ above all else. By prioritizing the glorification of Jesus, the church can fulfill its mission to reflect His love and grace to the world, creating a community that embodies the true essence of worship and service.

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