If you asked my kids, "What's the most important thing to your dad?" and they said, "I don't know," I'd be really disappointed. But if they said, "I don't care," I'd be crushed – and angry. It ought to matter to a son what a father regards as ultimately important. It ought to matter a lot to us what God is committed to with all his heart and soul and mind and strength. What is the impulse that drives the Almighty? What does he pursue in all his plans? = (WORSHIP & GLORY)

What is WORSHIP? To worship God is to recognize God's worth or worthiness; to look God-ward, and to acknowledge in all appropriate ways the value of what we see. The Bible calls this activity "glorifying God" or "giving glory to God," (WORSHIP) = the act of assigning "worth" & views it as the ultimate end, = the whole duty of man “Ascribe, (assign) to the Lord the Glory due to His name, worship in the splendor of His Holiness.”

Ps.29:2 “So Whatever you do, drink/eat- do it all for the glory of God” 1 Cor. 10:31

Westminster Confession: Why is man on the earth? (Or What is the Chief end of man? “To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” – Why are you on the Earth? Why are you in Church today? What is the point of your life?

John Piper is to this generation what C.S. Lewis was to his own generation:

1984: John Piper (Wheaton College Chapel: = College students)

Why were we created? Why did God create us? Isaiah 43:6-7, "Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth (says the Lord), everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory."

Why did God choose a people for himself and make Israel his possession? Jeremiah 13:11, "I made the whole house of Israel ... cling to me, says the Lord, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise and a glory."

Why did God rescue them from bondage in Egypt? Psalm 106:7-8, "Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider thy wonderful works...but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea. Yet he saved them for his name's sake that he might make known his mighty power."

Why did God use his sovereign power to bring back his people from exile after punishing four generations of sin? Isaiah (48:9,11) put it like this, "For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you ... For my own sake, for my own sake I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another." Ezekiel 36:22-23,32 puts it like this: "Thus says the Lord God, 'It is not for your sake, oh house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name ... And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name ... and the nations will know that I am the Lord. It is not for your sake that I will act,' says the Lord God. Let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, oh house of Israel."

And why will Jesus come again in the great day of consummation? 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10, "Those who do not obey the gospel will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints and to be marveled at in all who have believed..."

MAIN POINT: From beginning to end, the driving impulse of God's heart is to be praised for His Own glory. From creation to consummation His ultimate allegiance is to Himself. His unwavering purpose in all he does is to exalt the honor of his name and to be marveled at for his grace and power. He is infinitely jealous for his reputation. "For my own sake, for my own sake I act," says the Lord. "My glory I will not give to another!"
The Western Church (Americans) need to realize that God loves something more than them. He loves something more than the church. More than saving sinners. That the ultimate thought on the cross of Calvary was NOT YOU!!! The American Church needs to wake up and realize that we are NOT the center of God’s universe. **HE IS!**

**WE WERE CREATED FOR GOD.** We were created to Worship God; To have a real relationship with God – On His terms.

We want to get worship right. (Not style, Not method, Not Instruments) BUT Content. The Focus. **Jn. 4:23-4**

7 Axioms (Principles) Concerning Right Worship

1) God loves God most. “My Glory” 22X in O.T.
2) God is most glorified when He is the center of His own praise
3) The greatest gift God could ever give us (as humans) is the display that God worships God most – over and above all else. God is the one Being in the entire universe for whom self-centeredness, or the pursuit of his own glory, is the ultimately loving act. For him, self-exaltation is the highest virtue.

4) Is God self-centered? Absolutely!! To be anything else, for God to love anything else more than Himself would be disingenuous, self-defeating, and impossible. The very nature of God’s perfection and holiness demands that He puts Himself above every being and created thing. Unlike humans who “show off,” or crave praise, honor, & the center of attention, or who bully to be first in all things as a mask for some deep-seated insecurity – God worships Himself because there is nothing higher, greater, more wonderful than Him. He has to.
5) Jesus even worships God as Father, and head of the Trinity. Why did the Son of God come to earth and to his final decisive hour? John 17:1, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify You." Christ reveals a beautiful conspiracy to glorify the Godhead in all the work of redemption! (John 14:13; Rom. 15:8-9)
6) God’s glory. His accessible glory -This is why Jesus came to the earth. This was the VERY purpose of the cross: 1 Peter 3:18 says, "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous that he might bring us to God.”
7) We are commanded to Worship God: “Do all for the Glory of God” 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17 “Praise Him” = 26X in O.T.

PART 2: Objections & Action

God loves God most, this sounds weird to say: It makes us uncomfortable: WHY?

**A.** We are turned off with people who are self-absorbed, self-centered, and “narcissistic” (Narcissus)

C.S. Lewis: "[Lewis] We all despise the man who demands continued assurance of his own virtue, intelligence or delightfulness; we despise still more the crowd of people round every dictator, every millionaire, every celebrity, who gratify that demand. Thus a picture, at once How ludicrous and horrible, both of God and His worshippers, threatened to appear in my mind.”

**B.** The Bible teaches (Christ demonstrates) Humility, selflessness, servant hood of others; meekness.

God worshipping God seems Unbiblical, Out of Character for God, Uncharitable.

YET, God’s commitment to his own glory is immensely relevant for your life:

**A.** Even God worships. The Act of God Worshipping Himself is Him making much of Himself in the universe, world, & our Soul.

- God’s Worship is beautiful, Righteous, & Holy SINCE He is the center of His own worship.

"All things are from him and through him and to him" (Romans 11:36). = God shows us that worship is appropriate (undying devotion and commitment to a being is RIGHT). Our lives should
become consumed with WORSHIP – Of God= our highest goal and our own greatest ACTION on the earth is to give away our love & devotion to the Highest Being.

Piper: “Since God is unique as the most glorious of all beings and totally self-sufficient, he must be for himself if he is to be for us. If he were to abandon the goal of his own self-exaltation we would be the losers. His aim to bring praise to himself, and his aim to bring pleasure to his people, are one aim. They stand or fall together. "

If God would give us that which is best and most satisfying, that is, if he would love us perfectly, he must offer us no less than himself for our completion, contemplation, fellowship and joy. "In YOUR presence is fullness of joy. In thy right hand are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16:11)

Piper: “The greatest gift God could ever give to His own creatures is the knowledge and personal invitation into His own Worship and enjoyment of Him. Because God loves Himself most, and because He loves us, “God is after us to give us what is best – not prestige, wealth or even health in this life, but a full-blown vision of, and fellowship with, himself.”

C.S. Lewis: “But the most obvious fact about praise – whether of God or anything – strangely escaped me. I thought of it in terms of compliment, approval, or the giving of honor. I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise unless (sometimes even if) shyness or the fear of boring others is deliberately brought in to check it. The world rings with praise – lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game – praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians and scholars ... My whole, more general difficulty about the praise of God depended on my absurdly denying to us, as regards the supremely Valuable, what we delight to do, what indeed we can’t help doing, about everything else we value.” ... I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses, but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are, the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.” “The Problem of Praise in the Psalms” (found in Reflections on the Psalms [New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1958, 90-98]).

B. God not only desires our worship, deserves our worship, BUT He is the only One in the universe who demands our worship – as the most loving act to Himself:
"Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving And pay your vows to the Most High" Ps. 50:14
"He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God." Ps. 50:23

C. God desires that we lead ourselves and others into Right Worship:
Piper notes, God’s loving God most is shocking. “The love of God is not God’s making much of us, but God’s saving us from self-centeredness so that we can enjoy making much of him forever. And our love to others is not our making much of them, but helping them to find satisfaction in making much of God. True love aims at satisfying people in the glory of God.”

Do people go to the Grand Canyon to increase their self-esteem? Probably not. This is, at least, a hint that the deepest joys in life come not from savoring the self, but from seeing & enjoying splendor & beauty. Let’s start afresh, by Rightly WORSHIPPING God in a new perspective: God as the only rightful source of adoration, praise, honor, & WORSHIP:

**Remember, WORSHIP is our act of daily “assigning Worth or the Worthiness of God – not because we Value Him most, but because GOD values Himself most. He has determined His own worth - & our worship is in response to His worth!!

“I will glorify your name forever. For your lovingkindness toward me is great.” Ps. 86:12