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This week at MRC we reached G number 2!  
God is Glorious so we don't have to fear others.

We began the sermon by considering how many of us fear others, and are **shaped** by our fear of others - both in seeking approval or not their seeking disapproval. This might be seen for example in a susceptibility to peer pressure, an inability to leave social media alone, being unable to say no, or not speaking to our friends of Christ because we're fearful of their rejection.

God's glory (in broad terms and from the OT language) is his sheer weightiness, his gravitas. We used a weighing scales analogy (with a heavy prop!). When we 'weigh' God's glory against man's 'glory' (or any other glory) He should win! He is more glorious! The sad reality though is, like the OT people of God who wanted a king that they could see, very often we are affected and overly mindful of those around that we can see.



To begin to get to grips with this topic we spent time in Psalm 27 - especially v1-4 considering that David was a man well acquainted with fear of others and yet as he weighed his fears from enemies and opponents against God and his past track record, God won. We noted that his experiences are not simply hypothetical, but rather based in reality (v2 probably alluding to Goliath in 1 Kings 19 and v3 to being cornered by Saul and his men but miraculously being diverted and so

escaping (1 Sam 24)). God's character is seen in his actions. David recalls both.

We finished the sermon by briefly considering the antidote to this problem by looking at v4 and noticing how David kings to spend time with the Lord, gazing upon his beauty and glory. The answer is for us to not simply know about God, but rather to know God.

For it to not simply be that God is Glorious, but rather that MY God is glorious.

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***Some brief questions to consider as you begin to work through some of these ideas. Group / study leaders - your personal honesty will set the tone for how the study goes :)***

Are you someone who fears others? When? Who? Are there people or contexts when you're not fearful? Why? What are you fearful of?

How do you relate to social media - can you associate with some of the ideas in the sermon?

Think of the different roles you play through your week. Colleague, employee, parent, spouse, friend etc how does fear of man show itself in different contexts? Longing for approval? Scared of disapproval? Why?

How is David able to deal with his fears in Psalm 27? How does v1 link with v2-3? How easy do we find it to do what David does?

Looking at v4, how is this something of an antidote to our fears?

Make sure you spend time praying together for some of these things. Pray we would be a church not fearful of what others think...

***If you have time...***

Look up glory in a concordance and consider the concept of glory through the bible - what words help us to understand it? What part does weakness and sacrifice play? How can the cross be 'glorious'?