

## Have You Found Your Purpose

Text : **Rom. 12: 3-18**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

#### **A. What is the meaning of Life ?**

1. Why do we exist ?
2. Is it just to procreate so yet another generation can carry on a meaningless existence ?
3. What is your purpose in life ?

#### **B. God never created anything without a purpose.**

1. Every plant has a purpose.
2. Every creature on earth has a purpose.

#### **C. God has a purpose for every person ever born.**

1. If your heart is beating, God has a purpose for you.
2. Knowing why you exist is fundamental to happiness.

#### **D. If you want to know your purpose, you have to start with God.**

1. YOU did not create you so you cannot determine your reason for existing.
2. Culture tells us to look within for our purpose. Search yourself for meaning.
3. Society (*men collectively*) does not have the answers to the deep issues of life.
  - a. The god of this world is a poor counselor AND HE WISHES YOU NO GOOD.
  - b. Psychiatrists' couches laden with people seeking life's purpose. ( mental hospitals )
  - c. Jails are full of people who set off wondering is search of the meaning of life.
  - d. Divorce courts are awash with those who just needed space to find themselves.

#### **E. The fact is, you did not create yourself so you cannot determine why you exist.**

1. Only your creator can tell you why He made you.
2. God made us who we are and He made us what we are and only He can tell us why.
3. **ILL.- I love to examine unusual gadgets and try to figure out what their function might be. There is a TV show that features new inventions. Some of them are hard to understand even after the inventor explains them.**

### **TRANSITION :**

By this lesson I hope to challenge us to ask ourselves, "Have I consulted the owners manual to learn my purpose?" Have YOU discovered your purpose in life ?

**Eph. 1: 11-** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

**Col. 1: 16-** For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

## I. God planned and created me for His purpose.

### A. You exist because it pleases God for you to exist.

1. **Rev. 4: 11-** Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.
2. Some think they only pleasure God when they are doing good and behaving well.
  - a. One need only think about his own attitude toward his offspring to know this is wrong.
  - b. Does it only give you pleasure when they are doing good ?
 

**ILL.-** What about the time they watched the tape of the movie “Ole Yeller” and then proceeded to painted your spotted dog yellow?
  - c. They give you pleasure just because they exist.

### 3. Likewise, just the fact that you exist gives God pleasure.

- a. You were created to give God pleasure.
 

**Eph. 1: 3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. ( Cf.- **Psa. 139** )
  - b. Before God laid the foundations of the earth, He had you in mind.
- ### 4. What a comforting thought, before He created the world, God knew me ... and you.
- a. He had a plan for you and one for me before He created the world.
  - b. God knew when you would be born and where you would live.
  - c. He knew what you would do and with whom you would come in contact and He knew it ... **BEFORE** ... He created the world.

### B. The first purpose for humanity is to establish an eternal relationship with God.

1. God created man to be with Him.
  - a. Remember the relationship man had with God before sin. ... **Gen. 3: 8**
  - b. God created man to be His companions.
2. Man is given an eternal soul, but his body lasts but a few short years.
  - a. During those few short years, man make decisions the determine his eternal destiny.
  - b. Thus, life on earth is a type of testing ground for eternity.

3. Life on earth is very brief in comparison to eternity.
  - a. It is our one opportunity to prepare for eternity.
  - b. The wise man “redeems” the time for the days are evil.

**\* Before God created the world He knew you and He knew me. Before creation God desired a relationship with us.**

**Thus : my 1<sup>st</sup> purpose in life is to know and to love God because I was created for His pleasure.**

## **II. God formed me to be a part of His family.**

### **A. God’s eternal and unchanging plan has always been to reconcile us to Himself in Jesus Christ.**

1. This plan gives God pleasure.
2. **Eph. 1: 3- He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,**
  - a. From the very beginning of time God has wanted you to be part of His family.
  - b. Knowing all your faults, it still gives God pleasure to make you His child.
  - c. How can anyone not respond to a love like that ?
3. **THUS**, from the very beginning, God has always wanted you to be a part of a family that is greater than anything you can possibly experience on this earth.

#### **His family is :**

- a. Spiritual ( connected by more than blood )
- b. Eternal
- c. Includes both Jesus and the Heavenly Father.

### **B. From all eternity there has never been a time when God did not want a relationship with you and with me.**

1. Not only has God called us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ , He has provided for us to be “**born again**” into His family.
 

**I Pet. 1: 5- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**
2. What does it mean to be born again.
  - a. A vast array of teaching about this.
  - b. One called it “*A life do-over.*”
  - c. All agree, it is becoming something that is very different.

3. In order for one to receive a new life, the old one must end. ( **Not given additional** )
  - a. One must die to self, dies to fleshly desires, and dies to sin.
  - b. To be born again is to be “**created in Christ Jesus**” and that in His image.
  - c. Those born again have a strong family resemblance.
4. Of course, the dead must be buried.
  - a. The old man is buried in the watery grave of baptism.
  - b. All impurities are left in the grave. ( **One brings nothing into this world.** )
5. As in physical birth, one comes forth from the water with new life.
  - a. He is born anew into a different family, the family of God.
  - b. At the new birth, one is clothed with the righteousness of Christ.
  - c. God no longer sees the sins you have committed, He sees only Jesus.

### C. The foundation of any family is love.

1. Love within a family is unconditional.
  - a. It is not based on merit.
  - b. It is given, not earned.
  - c. Such affection is natural, it is instinctive in families.
2. The love of family is based solely on existence.
  - a. It is absolute.
  - b. It will never fail. ( **It doesn't start or stop, it just is.** )
  - c. This is the love that God tells us to have for our spiritual family.
 

**I Pet. 1: 22-23** Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.<sup>23</sup> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living ... word of God.
  - d. Notice that being born again is directly linked to loving one's new spiritual family.
3. God formed me to be part of HIS family.

**\* THUS :** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose in life is to learn to love others and to become part of God's family. ( Church family )

## III. GOD CREATED ME TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST.

- A. **Rom. 8: 29-** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;
- B. God created you and He created me to be like Jesus the Christ.
  1. God wants everyone who is a part of His family to behave like Jesus. ( **cf.- John 13:15** )

2. He wants everyone in His family to have the same attitude as Jesus. ( **Phil. 2: 5** )
3. **God want you and He wants me to be like Jesus in every way.**
  - a. How we feel about others.
  - b. How we act.
  - c. How we react.
4. This being true, we must devote ourselves to learning as much about him as we can.

**\* Thus :** **Our 3<sup>rd</sup> purpose in life is to grow up spiritually.**

**The essence of spiritual growth is to become like Jesus. ( Eph. 4: 11-16 )**

- **We will not make this transformation over night.**
- **JUST attending services won't cause it.**
- **It requires an active, deliberate pursuit.**

#### **IV. God created me to serve Him.**

**A. Eph. 2: 10- For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

1. God had works prepared for you before the world was created.
2. God had works prepared for you before you were born. ( **physically or spiritually** )
3. These works are services that you are to do for Him.

**B. In order to be faithful, we must spend our lives doing the things God has prepared us to do in His service.**

1. In this congregation, yeah, in the kingdom of God, every member is a minister.
2. I am NOT **thee** minister of this congregation, merely ONE OF the ministers.
  - a. My function is to study and publicly present lessons.
  - b. Every other member also has some function, some ministry.
3. God has good works planned for you and every other member of this congregation.
  - a. He planned those works before He created the servant in Christ Jesus.
  - b. You cannot choose the works, only if you will do what Go chose for you.
  - c. Every member will give an accounting for what how he performs God plan for him.

**C. God has given you special abilities.**

1. **I Pet. 4: 10- As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**
2. There is no one on earth exactly like you.
  - a. Genetics
  - b. Experience and training

3. You have unique special abilities and you must use them to help one another.

**D. You pass on God's blessings when you use your special gifts.**

1. Have you ever considered that you are one of God's agents on the earth to distribute His blessing among men.
2. God has provided whatever was needed to prepare you to accomplish His plan for you.

**\* Thus : My 4<sup>th</sup> purpose on the earth is to serve others.**

**As Jesus came to serve, so we ...**

**V. God made me for a mission.**

**A. John 17: 18- As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.**

1. All the passages referring to the mission of Jesus now applies to all His followers.
2. EVERY Christian is to seek the lost and then teach them to go out and teach others.

**Matt. 28: 19-20** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and ... ( **II Tim. 2: 2** )

**B. IF you are a Christian, it is your mission to bring others to Christ.**

1. Not the mission of the elders.
2. Not the missions of the deacons.
3. Not the mission of the preachers.
4. It is the mission of every single Christian in every single congregation on earth.
  - a. We must each one find a way to communicate the gospel to others.
  - b. Everyone is different, so each person will communicate it differently.
  - c. FEW people in our culture are brought to the cross by public proclamations.  
**ALL are brought to Christ by words communicated by someone they trust.**
5. God made you specifically for His mission.
  - a. You are prepared to reach someone.
  - b. Everyone has a different sphere of influence. ( **friends, family, co-workers, social** )

**C. If you are a faithful Christian you are actively, consciously working your mission.**

1. Fervently praying for those you might come to be able to influence.
2. Seeking out those whom you can befriend to add them to your sphere of influence.
3. Pro-actively pursuing lost people with the gospel.

**\* If you are a Christian, your mission is to reach other people with the gospel.**

**D. Somehow Satan has gotten one of his favorite heresies adopted by most Americans.**

1. Many have come to believe that they can pay someone else to fulfill their ministry.
2. This is true of most churches in America, not just the Lord's church.
3. This is a heresy that is literally killing congregations and causing people to be lost.
4. In the civil war people could pay other people to serve in the army for them.
  - a. This corrupt practice cannot be allowed in God's church.
  - b. EVERY Christian is created for ministry and has volunteered to serve.
  - c. If one can afford to pay a fulltime worker, great, but he's not a substitute for his sponsor.

**THUS :** Our 5<sup>th</sup> purpose on the earth is to bring other people to Jesus.  
Every Christian in some way must communicate the good news to others.

**CONCLUSION :**

**A. God has a purpose for you and for me as well.**

1. Only God can tell you why He made you.
2. He had that purpose for you before the foundation of the world.

**B. Each must ask himself, Have I found how God wants me to fulfill His purpose for me?**

1. Only God can tell you why He made you.
2. No one other than God can define God's purpose for you. ( **Not even you** )

**C. This morning as we have looked into the owner's manual, it is my prayer that you have discovered a more clear picture of why God created you.**

1. Are you fulfilling that purpose ?
2. Are you doing what God created you to do or just enjoying the life He gave you ?
3. Are you living a life of service or just believing doctrine and attending services ?

**D. Your life and mine will only have meaning a fulfillment when we are doing what God created us to do; when we are fulfilling GOD's purpose for our lives.**

**INVITATION :**

**We have seen that God's first purpose for us is to be with Him eternally.  
Are you prepared and ready to be with Him.**

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