

Purpose Driven Life 1

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CDC reports that Suicide rates have risen 30% among adults in the last decade.

Suicide has now passed car accidents as the leading cause of death among adults. It is the 3rd leading cause of death in those 10 and older.

Answering the question of “Why am I here?” is truly a “Life or Death” question.

The question of “Existence” or “Why am I here?” was asked by Jeremiah thousands of years ago.

Jeremiah 20:18 – “Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?”

A life without purpose isn’t worth living.

Removing God from our culture and “purposelessness” has produced a hopelessness that is driving people to end their lives, or live with a sustained depression.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT YOU WERE MADE FOR A PURPOSE.

The only option to truly discovering your purpose is to find it from your Creator, or the manufacturer of the product.

You were made by God and for God, and until you understand this, your life will never make sense.

Jeremiah 1:5 - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Life’s 3 Most Important Questions

1. The question of Existence – Why am I here? – I KNEW YOU BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.
2. The question of Significance – Does my life matter? – I SET YOU APART.
3. The question of Intention – What is my purpose? – I APPOINTED YOU.

Since God knew you and your purpose before you were even born, doesn’t it make sense to discover “What He Knows ABOUT YOU?”

WHY AM I HERE?

God created me to LOVE me.

Proverbs 16:4a – “The Lord has made everything for His own purpose.”

You weren't made for your goals, ambitions, and dreams. God made you for His purpose.

If you are alive and breathing, then God has a purpose for your life.

During these next 40 days, we are going to discover the 5 purposes God has for your life.

These 5 Purposes give our lives meaning:

1. You Were Planned for God's Pleasure (**Worship**).
2. You Were Formed for God's Family (**Fellowship**).
3. You Were Created to Become Like Christ (**Discipleship**).
4. You Were Shaped for Serving God (**Ministry**).
5. You Were Made for a Mission (**Mission**).

What was God's motivation in creating me? LOVE.

Ephesians 1:4 – “Long before God laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love. . .”

Before God thought of the universe, He thought of you!

God made you for one reason: TO SHOW YOU HIS INCREDIBLE AND EXTRAVAGANT LOVE.

The answer to the “Existence Question” or “Why am I here?” is that God created me to **LOVE ME**.

WHY DOES MY LIFE MATTER?

Does the fact that I'm here on earth matter or make a difference?

Isaiah 49:4 – “My work all seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and to no purpose at all.”

You and I were made for meaning.

I was made to LAST FOREVER. Life is PREPARATION for ETERNITY!

II Corinthians 5:1 – “When this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.”

God's 5 Purposes for your life will last forever, and are eternal in scope. *Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry & Mission.*

Psalm 33:11 – “His, God’s plans endure forever; his purposes last eternally.”

It is no exaggeration to say that God has long range plans for our lives.

The biggest mistake we make is that we think the limited time we spend on earth is all that matters.

One day your heart is going to stop beating and that will be the end of your life in your body; but, that will not be the end of you.

Example: Stretch a line from the earth to the sun and the first ½ inch would be your life on earth, and the rest would be your life eternally. How you steward that ½ inch will determine the outcome of the other 93 million miles!

This life is not all there is!

This life is the opening act, the dress rehearsal, the preschool.

If you live your life for only what happens to you in the here and now, you are making a fatal mistake.

The amazing thing about God is that his purpose for our lives started before we were born!

Psalm 139:16 – “You, God, saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book!”

God is interested in every detail of your life, He has seen it all: the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The fact that God created you to LOVE YOU and that you were made to LAST FOREVER is the key to understanding significance and meaning in your life.

WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?

The meaning of life is all about GOD. It is not about ME. I find my purpose in GOD.

Even though God created you to LOVE YOU and that you will LAST FOREVER, doesn’t answer the question of what to do before entering into eternity.

David asked this question in Psalm 89.

Psalm 89:47b – “Why did you create us? For nothing?”

David was basically asking, “What on earth am I here for?” or “What is my purpose?”

Without a basic understanding that you are created by God, then purpose becomes impossible.

If we are just here by some cosmic accident, then life truly has no meaning.

I Corinthians 15:32 – “And what value was there in fighting wild beasts-those men of Ephesus-if it was only for what I gain in this life down here? If we will never live again after we die, then we might as well go and have ourselves a good time: let us eat, drink, and be merry. What’s the difference? For tomorrow we die, and that ends everything!”

Our creator designed us for a distinct purpose, and without this basic knowledge a culture and the people in it will literally self-destruct.

The only way to know your purpose is to ask your Creator.

The designer or inventor knows the purpose and intricacies of the product.

Proverbs 9:10b – “Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding.”

The more intimate I become with God and His Word, the more I will discover my purpose.

I find my purpose IN GOD.

There is no other way to find out why we are here!

Colossians 1:16 – “For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible . . . Everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him.”

The meaning of life is all about GOD. It is not about YOU!

You were made BY GOD and FOR GOD and until you understand this, life is not going to make sense.

Ephesians 1:11-12 – “It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for . . . part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.”

TAKE AWAY PHRASE FOR THE WEEK:
It is not about me. It is all about God.

Acts 10:35 – “It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from – if you want God and you are ready to do as he says, the door is open.”