

Purpose Driven Life 3

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Last week we discovered that our number one purpose in life is to worship God, which is to know and love God.

The second purpose is this: FELLOWSHIP - You were FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY.

Worship is all about loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength.

Fellowship is all about loving God's family.

God doesn't just want you to love Him, but also to love His family.

Ephesians 3:14-15 – ¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom **his whole family** in heaven and on earth derives its name. ***NIV***

- The church is not a club you join or an organization, but it is a family that you belong to!
- **Contrary to what you may hear, WE ARE NOT ALL GOD'S CHILDREN.**
- We are **created and loved** by God, but we are **not** all His children.

Ephesians 1:5 - [God's] unchanging plan has always been to **adopt us into his own family** by bringing us to himself **through Jesus Christ.** ***NLT***

You must be **ADOPTED** into God's family, revealing God has **CHOSEN** you.

I John 5:1a - Everyone who **believes** that Jesus is the Christ is **born of God** . . . ***NIV***
You must be **BORN** into God's family, revealing you have **CHOSEN** God.

Believing and **receiving** Christ is how you **CHOSE** to enter into the family of God.

John 13:34 – But all who received [Jesus Christ], to them – that is, to those who trust in His name – He has given the privilege of **becoming children of God.** ***WNT***

Share about the new birth and the difference between being “religious” and “earning your salvation” and being “saved” and “receiving the “free gift of eternal life.”

Cornelius

Acts 10:2 - a **devout** man and one who **feared God** with all his household, who **gave alms generously** to the people, and **prayed to God always.** *NKJV*

- Even though Cornelius did all these things, he still needed to HEAR AND RECEIVE the message of the gospel to be saved.
- Even though Cornelius was all of these things, he still was NOT a member of GOD'S FAMILY.

Acts 11:14 - He will bring you a **message** through which you and all your household **will be saved.** *NIV*

God created you to be A PART OF HIS FAMILY.

As a member of God's family we all have responsibilities.

Three Responsibilities of being in God's Family

1. LOVE everyone in God's family

John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father **loves his children, too.** *NLT*

- Life is meant to be shared and we were created to share our lives with others.
- "It is not good for man to be alone."
- Love in the context of God's family means we share "real life" and are "authentic."
 - Put away the masks and church faces.

JESUS NEEDED HIS FRIENDS!

Mark 14:34 - He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and watch with me." *NLT*

- **Jesus took His disciples with Him; even Jesus needed His friends when He faced trouble.**
- When it comes to fellowship, size does matter: Smaller is better!

Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference** to one another; *NKJV*

- Love, by definition, is placing the needs and preferences of others above your own.
- Most Christians are "preference driven" in the church and not "purpose driven"
 - Worship style – Do you "deify" your "preference" and thereby place God's approval upon your selfishness?

- God inhabits the “praises of His people,” not the “preferences of His people.”

Ephesians 4:31-32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. **NKJV**

2. Take your place in PROVIDING for God’s family.

I Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not **provide for his own**, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **NKJV**

II Corinthians 8:1-5 – ¹ And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in **rich generosity**. ³ For I testify that they **gave as much as they were able**, and even **beyond** their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for **the privilege of sharing** in this service to the saints. ⁵ And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves **first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will**. **NIV**

- Even in their distress, they preferred others by giving with:
 - Rich generosity
 - As much as they were able
 - Beyond their ability
- They called this: “THE PRIVILEGE OF GIVING TO OTHERS”
- Paul said they GAVE to God FIRST and then to US – KEEPING GOD’S WILL!

3. Love everyone OUTSIDE of God’s family.

Everyone Jesus died for is welcome to come to Victory!

John 3:15-17 – ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **NIV**

Weekend services will always have a focus of “loving those outside of God’s family.”