

What's My Purpose?

A young woman fell in love, and according to tradition, brought her husband-to-be home to meet her family. After dinner, her father invited the fiancé into his study for a man-to-man chat. "So, what are your plans?" he opened.

"I'm a college student" the husband-to-be replied.

"That's very fine," the father returned, "but how will you provide a nice home for my daughter?"

"I will study, and God will provide," he explained.

"How will you raise children and send them to college, and how will you prepare for your retirement?"

"God will provide" came the answer again.

The young man left the study and the mother asked her husband, "How did it go?"

"Well, he has no money or employment plans," the father said. "But on the other hand, he thinks I'm God."

We may laugh, but many people in the world don't know who God is. And if we really don't know who God is, how many of us can say we know His purpose for creating us?

A few years back, there was a poll conducted by the USA Today newspaper. The poll asked "What question you would like to ask God?" The #1 response was "What's my purpose?"

That seems to me to be a great question to ask. But the question that really should be asked is: "What is God's purpose for creating us?"

This morning, it's my desire to show you through God's word exactly the reason why He created you.

A recent conversation is what has motivated me to speak on this topic.

I was at a gathering with fellow Christians, and the topic of why we were created came up. A person in the group stated that we were created to have a relationship with God.

It is common among Christians to assume that our salvation should have been uppermost in God's plan. Surely the main purpose of God is to save us so we can have a relationship with him.

But then again, is having a relationship with God the main purpose we were created?

Consider this; God enjoyed the aspect of having a deep, meaningful relationship before man was ever created. We read in Genesis 1:26

**Then God said, "Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness."
Genesis 1:26**

We serve one true God. Within the one true God, there is a "trinity" – God the father, God the son and God the spirit. Three distinct persons, but only one God.

I know it's hard to understand. In fact, it's impossible for us humans to fully understand. Why? Because to fully understand how the trinity exists, one would have to be God. Because none of us are God, we have only a limited capacity to understand the trinity.

The point I am making is this. Before man was created, before Adam and Eve were created, God enjoyed perfect relationship, perfect fellowship, within the trinity. God has never been alone. The triune God – the Father, the Son and the Spirit, has existed forever in perfect harmony.

So if the triune God enjoyed perfect fellowship before man was created, why then did God create man?

The answer is found in Genesis 1:26 – 28

The God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.

And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 1: 26 – 28

God created man to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth. That was the purpose God created man. Man’s purpose for being created was not to have fellowship with God. Man’s purpose was to subdue and have dominion over the earth. Why? Because by doing as instructed, man would glorify God.

Now it important to understand that although their purpose for being created was to glorify God, Adam and Eve did enjoy fellowship with God. The scriptures teach that God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The scriptures teach that God had literal conversations with Adam and Eve in the garden.

But then something happened. Adam and Eve both disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit and sin entered the world. Because God is perfect, man became separated from God because of sin. Why? Because a perfect God cannot be in the presence of something as filthy as sin.

God’s relationship with his creation, man, changed because of man’s sin. Through the fall of man through Adam and Eve, man is separated from God.

Although sin has separated man from God, it doesn’t mean that God has given up on man. It doesn’t mean that God doesn’t want to reveal Himself to man.

But because of sin, starting with Adam and Eve and continuing over the next few thousand years, man became more and more separated from God. The scriptures teach about horrible events such as the great flood, the Tower of Babel and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. These events speak to the deterioration of man as the result of sin. The deeper and deeper separation of man and God because of sin.

God was not pleased about this separation between man and Himself. Instead of being separated from man, God wanted to reveal himself to man. For this reason, God created a nation, the nation of Israel, for the purpose of revealing Himself to man. In Exodus 19 we read:

There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Exodus 19: 2 – 6

God chose Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation for this one reason. Israel was chosen by God for the purpose of revealing God to all of mankind. The problem with this plan was that Israel failed. Over time, the people of Israel became hardened towards God. Instead of being God’s light to a fallen world; Israel became dark.

This is where Jesus enters the scene. It’s like my Daddy still tells me, “If you want something done right; do it yourself.”

You see, Jesus is God and he came to earth 2,000 years ago to fulfill the mission that Israel failed at. Jesus came to earth to glorify God by revealing God to the world.

In John, chapter 17, Jesus defines his earthly mission as he prays to the Father:

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.” John 17: 1 – 5

The purpose of Jesus’ mission on earth was to glorify the Father. Jesus glorified the Father by accomplishing the specific work the Father sent him to do. This work was to reveal God. Jesus did this through his earthly ministry. In addition, the Father sent Jesus to die for our sins. Jesus did this through his death on the cross and his resurrection 3 days later.

Right now, you might be asking, “Because Jesus glorified the Father, am I suppose to glorify the Father as well?” The answer is “yes” and here is the reason why:

During his earthly ministry, Jesus was known as a rabbi to his disciples. In Judaism, the word rabbi means “religious teacher”. The word “disciple” means learner, or student.

Jesus wasn’t the only rabbi to have lived. There were many rabbis during his earthly ministry, and there are many rabbis living today. Every rabbi has their own disciples, or students. If the rabbi and disciple relationship is successful, the disciple will eventually assume the same role as the rabbi. The disciple will become just like the rabbi. That is the objective.

In our culture, it would be similar to a master craftsman teaching an apprentice. Eventually, the apprentice would become as skilled as the master and then go out to duplicate the work of the master.

So if Jesus is our rabbi and we are his disciples, then our goal should be the same as his. Again, Jesus’ mission to earth was to glorify the Father. Therefore, our purpose is to glorify the Father as well.

OK, so we have determined that our purpose is to glorify the Father. But what exactly does the word glorify mean? It means to give honor or praise; to exalt.

Our purpose for being created is to glorify the Father. To give Him honor and praise. To exalt Him. The next question is how do we glorify the Father?

For the answer, let's turn to the scripture. Let's look at John 15: 7-8
In this passage, Jesus explains how we glorify the Father.

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” John 15: 7 - 8

The Father is glorified when we are bearing much fruit. When we bear fruit we are proving to be Jesus' disciples.

Jesus, our rabbi, was sent to earth to reveal God. How did Jesus reveal God? Through His eleven disciples. By teaching these eleven men, the foundation of the church was built. The same church that has stood for the last 2,000 years.

Because we are disciples of Jesus, we should duplicate his mission. We too should seek to reveal God. Jesus taught his disciples about God; therefore we too should teach our disciples about God.

Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus gave his last instruction. It is called the great commission and it is found in Matthew 28: 18 - 20:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 18 - 20

How does God see us bearing much fruit? A person bearing much fruit is one who is making disciples.

When we that have trusted in Christ are making disciples, we are glorifying the Father. And when we are glorifying the Father, we have found our purpose. And whether we know it or not, God has created all of us to produce fruit for His kingdom. But because of free will, it's our decision to make if we are going to make disciples, or not.

Maybe you're thinking right now that you can't make disciples. If you believe that, I want you to know its Satan that is telling you that lie.

I will admit that if you haven't tried to make disciples, the thought of doing so can be intimidating. To be an effective disciple maker, you must first get trained in the scriptures. You must then seek someone that wants to be your student. You must make time in your busy schedule to accomplish these goals.

I won't kid you; it can be tough making disciples. But I also want you to know that anything that is of true value takes work. Jesus took eleven men and built a church that has lasted longer than any world power. With just eleven men. Are you willing to make at least one disciple?

I started the process of making disciples by attending regular bible studies. I then jumped into teaching children's Sunday school. I then led a jr. high disciple group of about 10 students. That has led into personal one on one disciple relationships with adult men. All this took place over a 5 year span. But the key is that I didn't wait until the end of 5 years before I started making disciples. I started attending bible studies the very week I was saved. And I started teaching children in Sunday school about 2 years after I placed my faith in Jesus as my savior.

There is nothing special about me. If I can do it, so can you. It won't be easy, but it will be fulfilling because making disciples is why God created you.

If you have placed your faith in Jesus, I hope you are convinced that you should be making disciples.

Now let's shift our focus to those that have not placed their faith in Jesus.

We Christians often say the words "place your faith in Jesus". I want to make sure we know what that means.

Placing your faith in Jesus is kind of like this. Let's say you are flying in an airplane. All of a sudden, the pilot announces there is going to be a crash in about 5 minutes. You are then told there is a parachute under your seat. Would you jump out of the plane without putting on the parachute? Of course not, unless maybe if you're Evil Knievel.

You would put the parachute on, and then jump out of the plane, all the time placing your faith in the parachute to save you. If you merely just heard about the parachute, but decided not to put it on, you would die.

Like just hearing about a parachute, getting saved is more than just hearing about Jesus. It's about placing your faith in Jesus to save you.

Maybe in this room right now there are some that don't place their faith in Jesus for the payment of their sins. The question is if you haven't accepted Jesus, how does God look at you?

According to Hebrews 11:6, without faith it is impossible to please God. However, although you don't please Him, God still loves you. The apostle Paul explains this love in his letter to the Church in Rome.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person, though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6 – 8

Let's take a moment to reflect upon this scripture. Just for an illustration, let's say that Osama Bin Laden needed a liver transplant, or he would die. Your liver happens to be a perfect match for him. But to give your liver up, means you would die. Would you do it? I know that I wouldn't do it. But if my wife, son or daughter needed my liver, I would gladly give it to them.

Do you realize that in terms of sin against God, we are just as guilty as Osama Bin Laden?! We have lied. We have stolen. We have murdered at least with our hearts. We have lusted for material possessions. We have committed adultery, at least with our hearts.

But in spite of all this, God loved you and me so much, Christ died for us. You and me, the ungodly, Christ died for us.

Clearly, God loves even the ungodly. Now just because God loves the ungodly, it doesn't mean they will enjoy eternal life. The scripture teaches that those that don't place their faith in Jesus are lost and will not enjoy eternal life.

To be lost in this sense of the word is to be out of place and useless. Think of it like your car keys. Car keys are made by the car manufacturer for the purpose of starting and stopping the car engine. If your keys are lost, it doesn't mean they are worthless. All it means is that they are out of place. Because they are out of place, they cannot be used for the purpose they were created for.

Recently I lost my wedding ring. I am not mad at my ring. I just want it returned to me immediately.

In similar fashion, when you have not placed your faith in Jesus as your savior you are lost and about as effective for God as lost car keys, or a lost wedding ring. Because you are not in the place God created you to be, you cannot be used by your creator. And if you are not being used by your creator, you will never find your true purpose. You are lost because you are separated from God.

Let's talk about being lost. Recently, I was given the opportunity to speak with a lady who had not placed her faith in the sacrifice of Jesus for her salvation. She did not have eternal life. The interesting point about her was that she considered herself to be a good Christian.

I asked her during our conversation, "If you died today, where would you go?" Her reply was "Heaven, I guess. I am good person. I think I'm a good Christian. I try to go to church every Sunday."

I then replied "You say you are a good person. May I ask you then, "good" by whose standards – man's standards or God's standards?"

She took a pause and then stated "I guess I don't really know the answer to that."

I then asked her "Suppose none of us were good enough by God's standards. What would become of us?"

She replied “I guess we would all be without hope.”

You know what? She’s right. We are all without hope, except for one reason. That reason is Jesus Christ. The bible states in the book of Isaiah:

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53: 6

Many people think they are a good Christian because they are a good person. But heaven isn’t full of good people. Heaven is full of forgiven people.

God has laid all our sins on Jesus. Our past sins. Our present sins. And our future sins. To glorify the Father, Jesus willingly allowed himself to be crucified on the cross. The death of Jesus paid the price for our sins. None of our good acts can pay the heavy price required to satisfy God’s wrath against our sin. Only a perfect sacrifice will do that. The perfect sacrifice was Jesus. Fully man and fully God.

Jesus himself said it this way:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:16

Have you found that the things of this world not really fulfilling after you have acquired them. Things like new cars soon get old. Working extra hours to build a good retirement, only to have all your hard work evaporate in the stock market. Electronic gadgets that offer new technology, only to be outdone by next years model. Pouring your life into your children’s activities, only to see them grow up and move out.

God is telling us loud and clear that we will only find purpose in life when we glorify Him. Before any of us can glorify Him, we must first trust in the sacrifice of Jesus for the payment of our sins. We must go from being “lost” to being “found”. We are “found” at the moment we trust in Christ.

God has been calling you your entire life. Have you been hearing Him or have you been ignoring Him? Today God is calling you. He is calling you into His kingdom.

And let me tell you, it's a wonderful kingdom.

When you enter the kingdom of God, you have the assurance of eternal life. That assurance will strengthen you. It will make all the difference in you.

The Apostle Paul wrote

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

You too can be strengthened by God today by placing your faith in Jesus.

Jesus said:

For the Son of man came to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10

Jesus said:

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

Jesus said:

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. John 6:47

Jesus said:

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. John 5:24

If you haven't accepted the Lord Jesus as your Savior, I am telling you that today is your day. It would be a privilege for me to lead you right now in a prayer to accept Jesus.

But first, you must repent. Repent in this sense means to stop trying to save yourself. You can't save yourself through baptism, holy communion, giving money to the poor or by being a good parent. Only God can save you. God saves you when you place your trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

You also must acknowledge that you are a sinner in need of a savior. Why? Well if you are not a sinner, then you don't need a savior. And if you don't need a savior, then you don't need Jesus.

Some of us have a hard time admitting we are a sinner. I think it's because we equate sin with only really bad stuff like stealing or murder. But sin is much simpler than that.

So exactly what is a sin? A sin is anything that doesn't allow God to be God in your life. Is murder a sin? Of course. Is stealing a sin? Of course. Is being disrespectful to someone a sin? Yes, it is.

I sin daily, and so do you. That's why Jesus came and died for us. Because we, as sinners, could never provide a perfect sacrifice to remove our sin. We need a perfect one. That one is Jesus. Fully man and fully God. Literally, the perfect sacrifice for the world.

So if you want to enter the kingdom of God, pray something like this with me to your heavenly Father: Dear Father - I know I am sinner. I have fallen short of your righteous standard. I accept that I could never earn my way into your kingdom. The only way I can become righteous is by believing that Jesus paid the price of my sins when he died on the cross and rose 3 days later. Thank you Father for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for accepting his shed blood and forgiving my sins. Amen.

If said that prayer for the first time, I want to welcome you to the body of Christ. You are now part of His church. The next step is to enter into a discipling relationship with a person that is further along in the Christian faith. As your knowledge of God's word develops, you too can make disciples for the Kingdom of God.

