

Sunday 4/21/2024 – Does My Life Have A Purpose?

Definition of Purpose- the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.

This is a question that we all wrestle with and wish we could answer. Sometimes and in certain seasons of our lives it may be easier to answer than others. But I want to spend our time looking at this question in two different ways. The word purpose is a big and broad word....The first way, let's take a look and see what is our existential purpose, which is our overall purpose or functionality as humans, what was God's idea and purpose in creating us. And then I want to look at some of your deeper questions around your pragmatic/practical purposes, which are our individual purpose and plans for our lives.

So let's go back to the beginning. What was God's original purpose for creating humans?

When God created the first human's Adam and Eve he said they were very good and put them in a perfect place, a garden. Their instructions were to be fruitful and multiply, to tend and work the garden, and to enjoy companionship between each other and with God.

Then Jesus tells us in the New Testament what our goal and purpose in life should be all about...

Matthew 22:36-46 NIV

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 28:16-20 NIV

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

So our overall purpose from God should be to:

Love God
Love Ourselves
Love Others
Serve the World

But then we ask deeper questions like...

What is God's will for me?

How do I learn about "God's master plan for me?"

What does God want me to do with my life?

Let's look at what the bible teaches about those specific questions. This passage should give us all a feeling of freedom in our purposes.

Colossians 3:17 NIV

And **whatever you do**, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:23-24 NIV

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

These passages from Paul gave me so much freedom in my life because I loved the word "WHATEVER". This helps me know that while God is concerned and helpful with the details of my life, he also gives me the option to choose and have free will to do things he has created for me to do. And no matter what I am doing, what job I have, how I am spending my time, where I am going to school, I can use my life to serve him and glorify him in everything that I do. And I hope this is freeing for you as well. That God's plan for your life is WHATEVER, because you can love him, love others, love yourself, and serve the world in ANYTHING that you do. But how do we really discover who God has wired us to be and live into that purpose?



Find our unique purpose by looking at:

God's Glory- What honors God and brings God glory through my life?

The World's Good- What burdens do I see in the world that break my heart?

Our Joy- What gifts, talents, abilities do I have that are unique to me and when I do them, they bring joy to me and others?

NT WRIGHT:

We need Christian people to work as healers: as healing judges and prison staff, as healing teachers and administrators, as healing shopkeepers and bankers, as healing musicians and artists, as healing writers and scientists, as healing diplomats and politicians. We need people who will hold on to Christ firmly with one hand and reach out the other, with wit and skill and cheerfulness, with compassion and sorrow and tenderness, to the places where our world is in pain. We need people who will use all their God-given skills, as Paul used his, to analyze where things have gone wrong, to come to the place of pain, and to hold over the wound the only medicine which will really heal, which is the love of Christ made incarnate once more, the strange love of God turned into your flesh and mine, your smile and mine, your tears and mine, your patient analysis and mine, your frustration and mine, your joy and mine.