

“Enjoying the Lift You Were Meant to Live”

Text: Colossians 1:16

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PRAY!

There’s a verse in the Bible in Ecclesiastes 11:8, *“People ought to enjoy every day of their lives no matter how long they live.”*

- God says life was meant to be enjoyed not just endured. The sad truth is most people don’t really enjoy life. They have occasional moments of happiness but they don’t enjoy life as a whole. Why?
- Simple answer: Because we don’t live it the way God intended. We waste it on the wrong activities, we use it on the wrong purposes and as a result we don’t have the joy God intended for us to have.

The fact is God has never made anything without a purpose behind it. He has a reason behind everything. And He made you for a reason, for a specific purpose.

- The Bible says, in Colossians 1:16 from the Message Bible, *“Everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible everything God started in Him and finds its purpose in Him.”*

If you want to live a life of enjoyment and enjoy the life you were meant to live all along you have to do two things:

- One, you must first understand the purposes for which God created you.
- And second, you must then build your life around those purposes.

So, this morning let’s review our five purposes and ask the question, why did God make you?

I. The Bible says you were made to enjoy a loving relationship with God.

A. That’s the first reason you’re taking a breath right now. You were made to enjoy a loving relationship with God. God wants you to know Him. He wants to have a friendship with you. There are three characteristics of this friendship that God made you to have with Him.

1. **It is loving.** Isaiah 44:2, *“I am your creator. You were in My care even before you were born.”* You were in God’s care even before you were born. You have never taken a breath that God didn’t see and didn’t love you during that moment. God made you to love you.

2. **It's only possible by God's grace.** The Bible says in Ephesians 1:5, "*God's unchanging plan* [in other words, this is not Plan B] *has always been to adopt us into His own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us.* [He wanted to make you a family member. He wanted a relationship with you.] ... *and He did this because He wanted to.*"
 - God took the initiative. It's all because of God's grace that you can have a relationship with Him. You'll never earn it. God made you and loves you.
3. **It's meant to last for eternity.** The Bible says, "*This was His purpose. That when the time is ripe He will gather us all together from wherever we are to be with Him in Christ forever.*"
 - God wants to have a relationship with you not just while you're here on earth. But for the rest of eternity. You were made to have a loving relationship with God.

II. The second reason you were created was to experience authentic relationships with others.

- A. That means you weren't meant to go through life all on your own. You were made for relationships. Why? Because you were made in God's image. And God lives in relationship. He lives in relationship to Himself. The Trinity is a relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is in relationship and since we're made in God's image we are made not to live on our own but to live in relationship – first with God and second with others. There is a vertical and horizontal relationship.
- B. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:18, "*God settled the relationship between us and Him and then He called us to settle our relationships with each other.*"
 1. Relationships are your life. That's what life is all about. Life is not about acquisition. You're going to lose it all when you die. It's not about achievement. It's about relationships. God wants you to have them with other people.
- C. We instinctively know this in the crises of life. When there's a funeral, when someone's near death in the hospital all of a sudden we get focused on what matters most and we think, "I should spend more time with them. I wish I had said this... I wish I had told them that..." But we get busy and distracted by less important things.
- D. Galatians 5:14, "*God's whole law* [the Bible] *can be summed up in this one command 'Love others as you love yourself.'*" In fact Jesus said you can summarize the entire Bible in two sentences: "*Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.*" He's saying: Get the message; relationships are what life is all about. That's what matters most. You were made for a relationship with God and you were made for relationship with other people. Because God is love.

3. The third reason God put you on this planet is to develop the character of Christ.

- A. Before you go into eternity God wants to make you like Jesus Christ in character. Romans 8:29 says, *“From the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him should become like His Son [that’s Jesus].”* The second part of that verse in The Message paraphrase says, *“He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son. We see the original and intended shape of our lives in Him.”*
 - 1. Human beings are made in God’s image. But something kind of messes that up. We go our own way and we mess up God’s image in lives. It’s called sin. But Jesus came to restore that image.
- B. God wants to make you like Himself. He wants to make you godly. What does that mean? He wants you to have the character of God; to be like Jesus Christ in character. God is loving, fair, truthful, kind, sensitive, always just and He wants to make you like Himself in those characteristics; making you like Jesus Christ. Jesus is the model of life as it was intended to be.
 - 1. There is no situation you will face that you cannot learn from if you would simply say, “How would Jesus respond to this?”
- C. If you became more like Christ in the way that you think, in the way you react, in the way you respond to problems and stress, in the way you talk, do you think maybe your problems might be fewer? Of course. Do you think your stress level would be lessened if you responded to people the way Jesus did? Yes. Because that’s life as it was meant to be lived.

4. The fourth reason God put you on this planet is to express your God-given abilities.

- A. God wants you to express the abilities that He has given you. He wants you to use them to help other people. Romans 12:6, *“God has given each of you [each of us] the ability to do certain things well.”* Ephesians 2:10, *“God made us to do good works which he planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.”*
- B. God has always had jobs for people to do. Whenever you use your talent, your ability, what you’re good at, and you use it to help other people, to bring pleasure to their lives, or to make the world a better place there’s a word for that. It’s called your ministry. And the Bible says that everyone is a minister. Not a pastor, not clergy person, not a priest but a ministry. Anytime you use your talent to help somebody else you’re ministering to that person.
- C. Some of you are very neat and you’re very organized. God enjoys watching you be you. Some of you are not neat at all. And you are very disorganized. God enjoys watching you be you. Where do you

thing you got your strengths? From God. Where do you think you got your weaknesses? From God. He wired you up so there's nobody else like you and He's given each of us weaknesses. Why? He wants us to need each other. If you had only strengths you'd say, "I don't need anybody in my life." So you have weaknesses so you will need other people and build relationships.

5. God made you for a mission on earth.

- A. Jesus says in John 17 talking to God the Father, *"In the same way You gave Me a mission in the world I give them a mission in the world."* Everyone wants to feel like their life has significance. We all want to feel like our life has meaning. Where does it get that meaning? By making a contribution. We're not put on this earth to be a consumer. You were put on this earth to be a contributor. You were not put on this earth to be a spectator and watch everybody else serve you. You were put on this earth to be a participator.
- B. Paul said in Acts 20, *"Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus."* It is the goal of this church to help you discover your life mission.

Where do you start?

Next week, October 21st, is CLASS 101. That is the starting point in building the five purposes into your life. Take out the registration form, fill it out and say, **"I'm not going to waste another millisecond of my life. I'm going to start now about getting serious about the purposes of God."**

PRAYER

Dear God, I want Your purposes in my life more than anything else—more than pleasure, more than possessions, more than prestige, more than position, more than power. I want God's purposes in my life. I want to do with my life what I was put on this planet to do. Thank you, Jesus Christ, for dying to make this all possible. I pray this in Your name. Amen.