

Discovering God's Purpose For Your Life

Finish this sentence: My purpose in life is _____.

Introduction:

What we want to see is if the purpose you have written down matched with God's purpose for your life.

Why is this so important?

Success is fulfilling your purpose in life. For example, a pen is successful when it writes. You're successful when you fulfill the purpose God has designed for you.

How horrible would it be to find out that you worked really hard and lived your entire life for the wrong purpose and that is why your life was miserable and didn't seem to make sense.

God's Purpose #1:

- I. God wants to develop a love relationship with you. Matt. 22:36-38
 - A. Jesus said the greatest commandment is "to love the Lord your God with all your being."
 - B. Jesus didn't say this was optional. He said this was a command.
 - C. How is it possible for you to enter into a love relationship with God?
Problem is sin.
 1. Realize God is our Creator from birth but that does not automatically make Him our Father.
 2. The Bible says that we are all born with a sin nature and are separated off from God. Eph 2:1 "You were dead in your transgressions and sins."
 3. God loves you but He is also holy which means He can't just overlook our sins.
 4. God's standard is perfection. So no matter how much good we do it's never enough. We can never be perfect. Isa. 64:6 "All your righteous acts are like filthy rags."

Solution is Christ's death.

1. Fortunately, because God loves us and desires a relationship with us, He allowed Jesus who is God to come to earth and live the perfect life we should have lived and allowed Him to take the punishment of our sins (death) so we could be forgiven.

2. We were held hostage by sin and Jesus' death was the ransom paid so we could be set free and be forgiven of our sin. 1Tim. 2:5-6 "For there one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all men."

Response: Repent and Believe.

1. Repent: To admit you're wrong/you're a sinner and desire to turn away from it. Acts 20:21 "Paul said, I have declared that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."

2. Believe: To place your complete trust in Jesus' death as sufficient payment for your sin and acknowledge you want it applied to your account. John 1:12 "But as many as receive Christ, to them that believed in His name, He gives the right to become children of God."

3. As a result, you enter into a personal relationship with God.

4. Give an invitation to respond to the gospel.

D. Your relationship with God leads to fellowship.

1. Process of daily living in harmony with God as your Father.

2. Just like in any relationship you need to spend time communicating with each other.

a. Read the Bible – It's how God talks to you.

b. Pray – You talking to God.

3. This fellowship (not relationship) can be broken by your unwillingness to submit and obey your Father.

4. If you rebel against God and do what you know is wrong (sin) your relationship with God will not be severed, but your fellowship with God is damaged.

5. How can you restore and maintain your fellowship with God?

a. Confession restores fellowship.

1. Confession means to agree with God that it is sin and that it is wrong.

2. Confession agrees to stop doing it and start doing what is right.

b. 1John 1:9

c. If you know you have unconfessed sin in your life I would challenge you to pray and confess those sins by name and then thank God for His forgiveness and cleansing

God's Purpose #2:

II. God wants you to grow into a mature child of God (to become more and more like Jesus). Rom. 8:29

A. Why should you want to grow to become like Christ?

1. So you will please God. Matt. 3:17
 2. So you will have a growing sense of fulfillment and joy.
John 15:11
- B. How can you grow to become more like Christ?
1. By allowing His Spirit (Christ in you) and His word to remold your words, thoughts, and actions from the inside out. Gal. 5:19-23, Rom. 12:2
 2. By letting God use everything that happens to you to make you more like Christ. When circumstances happen in your life, don't ask "Why God, are you allowing this?" Ask God, "What are you trying to teach me? In what ways do you want me to grow?" Rom. 8:28-29

God's Purpose #3:

- III. God wants you to help others find this new life you've found in Christ.
- A. What does Mark 1:17 say about your purpose in life? (follow Christ → fishers of men)
 - B. How can you help others find new life in Christ?
 1. By showing them Jesus in your changed attitudes and actions. Matt. 5:14-16
 2. By telling them how they can come to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus. 2Cor 5:16-20

Application:

The Apostle Paul said that a person reaps a harvest in proportion to what he sows. (2Cor 9:6-11) Faith operates the same way. One of the best ways to increase your faith in Jesus is to share Him with others. The more you give him away, the more your faith will grow.

Conclusion:

God's purpose for your life is that you have a love relationship with Him, grow to become more like Christ, and love others by pointing them to a relationship with God. As you live this life, you will live the exciting life for which God created you.

Phil. 1:6