

Meeker Christian Church August 14, 2022 The Purpose Driven Life — # 2

PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

If anyone wants to know the purpose of life, you have to talk to the creator who made you and look in His owner's manual which He wrote disclosing what He wanted us to know. In that revelation called the Bible, we learn that we were made **by** God and we were made **for** God. Understanding that puts us on the path of life that makes sense. God has five reasons for creating people which is what our PDL series is all about. Today we're going to look at the first of those five reasons. Please note with me Revelation 4:11/// in the KJV *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

God created everything. You are part of that creation. You along with the rest of that creation were created for the pleasure of HE who created it all.///It all, we all were created to bring pleasure to God! satan has turned that righteous truth revelation upside down and inside out to confuse, tempt, and torment.

We have the record of a man who came up to Jesus and said in Matthew 22:36-38 *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"* 37 *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all you soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment."*

Having then been created to bring pleasure to our Heavenly Father, He also created the mechanism through which we may convey that pleasure to HIM. That mechanism was the first and great commandment – love. In this passage God is teaching that the fundamental to life and of first importance is to love Him back for His pleasure. That act of loving God back is called worship.

OUR first purpose in life is to worship God.

It's our primary objective. It's our highest priority. It's our number one purpose in life. Look at how Romans 12:1 GNT defines worship *Because of God's great mercy to us... .. offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him.* "This is the true worship that you should offer."

That same Romans 12:1 passage in the KJV *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

That same passage is further illuminated in the Message Bible version 12:1-2 *So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do*

for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Also from the NKJV Romans 12:1 *Christian brothers, I ask you from my heart to give your bodies to God because of His loving-kindness to us. Let your bodies be a living and holy gift given to God. He is pleased with this kind of gift. This is the true worship that you should give Him.*

Worship is our response to the love of God. God always makes the first move. He created us. He saved us. He forgave us. He blesses us. He protects us. Because of all these things, we worship.

Whenever we give back to God, //whenever we offer anything to God, that's called worship. And that brings pleasure to God./// He made us all. He made the universe! What could we possibly give to Him? // We can give Him what He created in us to give Him. **We give Him our love.**

A word of caution: Our free will allows us to be vulnerable and fall for the craftiness of evil by ignorant default or deliberate choice not to give God our love, but giving the world our love instead ... That is a reason worship is so essential in preparation for our eternal destiny.

And please note this time in the gospel of Mark 12:30 just how very specific God's instructions are to us about about how to give that love to Him: In Mark 12:30 NIV "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.*" That takes regular practice and a focused effort.

Though God created the entire world and the universe and He created you, there are three things God does not have unless you give them to Him.

1) He doesn't have your attention unless you give it to Him. **That's loving God with your mind.** Being thoughtful and deliberate with intent and action of loving worship. It is focusing our mind, our thoughts, our attention on God. God wants us to worship Him thoughtfully. Look at what the Bible has to say to us in Psalm 139 verses 1 through 3. "*You have looked deep into my heart, Lord, and You know all about me. You know when I am resting or when I am working*" -- "*You notice everything I do and everywhere I go.*" CEV(Contemporary English version)

A thoughtful way to do that is take to a moment and ask yourself about everything in your life: how is God in this and how do I love and praise Him in my response.

2) God does not have our attention unless we give it to Him. AND #2 God does not have our affection unless we give it to Him. That's loving God with our heart and our soul. In English we refer to that as loving God passionately, sincerely and with every fiber of our being.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 105, verse 4, KJV *Seek, the Lord, and His strength; seek His face evermore.* That instruction is to "Worship God continually." Just think about Him throughout the day. And as you do this, as we do this, focusing on God has incredible benefits in our lives.

Isaiah 26, verse 3, NLT *"you will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on You!"* When you focus on yourself, the inevitable result are thoughts of worry, insecurity, anxiety, guilt, fear, discouragement. But when that focus shifts to God, all of a sudden, you begin to sense gratitude and hope and confidence and love.

Whenever we take the things God has given to us and we give them back to Him - that is the heart of worship. Or we might say that our worship is expressing our affection to God. Or as in 1 John 4:19 KJV *"We love Him, because He first loved us. //And He wants to hear it. "I love you God."//* God confirms that in Hosea 6:6 from the International Children's Bible when HE says: *"I want faithful love more than I want animal sacrifices, I want people to know me more than I want burnt offerings."* Or might we say from God's perspective: "I want your love, not your stuff."

3) God does not have our attention unless we give it to Him. AND God does not have our affection unless we give it to Him. The 3rd thing God does not have unless we give it to Him is our ability, That's loving God with our strength. Offering God our strength is loving Him practically.

Colossians 3:32 NIV *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

Here is a wonderful truth that will revolutionize your thinking and understanding: In life it's not what you do that matters as much as it matters who you do it for. God doesn't want worship to just be a church thing. He wants it to be our whole way of life, to worship God with our lives.

The purpose in every life is to know and love God first, before anything else. God is passionate about His relationship with you. Perhaps you will recognize that thought as I read Exodus 34:14 which you will recognize as the first of the Ten Commandments// from the KJV *For thou shalt worship no other god; for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:* Or as the Amplified Bible so beautifully translates the passage: - *for you shall not worship any other god; for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous (impassioned) God {demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His}- AMP*

Much later in Romans 6:13b NLT Paul puts it all together in his familiar straightforward way: *...give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.*

In 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 Paul again testifies to the result of using your whole body as being an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. 1 Thess 4:11-12 *Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

Give yourselves completely to God since you were given life and have been given new life by accepting Jesus as Lord and making the decision to be baptized.

Remember? It's always a response on our part. God gave us life,- then He gives new life in Jesus. He says I want you to give yourself completely back to Me.

God wants us to see Him with our minds. He wants us to sense Him with our heart and soul. And he wants us to serve Him with our strength.

We are PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE and that response of love is called worship.

John 4:23 ESV *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.*

Invitation hymn Footprints of Jesus 505