

CREATED TO FULFILL THE PURPOSE OF GOD

We have been created by God to have a close/intimate relationship with Him and to serve as an expression of His love to help reconcile others to Him.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ We must recognize, believe and accept that we were created to fulfil the purpose of God.
- ❖ Broadly speaking, the purpose of God can be defined as God wanting an intimate love-based relationship with humanity – His creation (Genesis 3:8-9 NLT) – and for humans to serve as expressions of His love to help reconcile others to Him.
- ❖ In the creation narrative of Genesis, we are told that “The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters” (Gen. 1:2).
- ❖ Then the Lord began to speak creation into existence. At the end of each of the first five days, God looked and said His creation was "good."
- ❖ When the creation narrative pivots to the creation of humanity on the sixth day, it takes on a more personal tone. God talks about creating humanity in His own image, forms humanity from the dust of the earth and breathes into humanity's nostrils, creating a living soul.
- ❖ At the end of the sixth day, after creating humanity, God looked and said it was "very good" (Gen. 1:31).
- ❖ When God created us, He created a very good thing.
- ❖ There are many negative opinions, experiences and voices that we may have encountered that tried to tell us we were unwanted, unloved, incapable or some other message that had a devaluing effect.
- ❖ However, God looked and said it was a very good day when He created humanity – and who has the audacity to contradict the Almighty God!?
- ❖ Let's look at the prophet Jeremiah as an example of someone called to live out the purpose of God.
- ❖ Jeremiah lived during a time when the nation of Israel was not being faithful to God. God wanted Jeremiah to be an ambassador for Him to the nation of Israel, to encourage them to be faithful.
- ❖ Similar to the creation narrative of humanity, God told Jeremiah that He personally formed him in the womb. God further told him that He knew him before he was formed in his mother's womb! (Jeremiah 1:5)
- ❖ This reflects a level of knowledge and intimacy that God has with us that is difficult to conceptualize.
- ❖ Jeremiah was created specifically to fulfill the purpose of God. It seems, though, that he may have been familiar with the negative opinions, experiences and voices mentioned earlier.
- ❖ He informed God that he could not fulfil God's purpose in his life "because he was too young" (Jer. 1:6).
- ❖ There were real obstacles to God's purpose for his life.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 1:4-9 NLT

- ❖ Jeremiah lived during a period of political uncertainty. In addition, the nation of Israel was engaged in Idol worship and practices that were not pleasing to God.
- ❖ Our experience is similar in that we live in a time of political and economic uncertainty and our society is plagued by idol worship and practices that are not pleasing to God.
- ❖ You may question how, in this environment, we can have a close/intimate relationship with God and serve as an expression of His love to help reconcile others to Him, in the face of obstacles.
- ❖ It starts with recognizing, believing and accepting that we were created to fulfill the purpose of God.
- ❖ God told Jeremiah not to be afraid and that He would help him by His Spirit (Jer. 1:7-9).
- ❖ It is the Holy Spirit who will help us fulfill the purpose of God in our lives. We do this by loving God and loving people through the love of God.
- ❖ We make ourselves available to God when His Spirit prompts us to draw closer to Him through prayer, worship, meditation on scripture, meditation on His goodness, or however God is drawing us. We love people by seeing the expression of God in them (Matthew 5:14-16).
- ❖ Just like God asked Jeremiah to be an ambassador for Him to reconcile the nation of Israel back to Him, Jesus is asking us to be ambassadors of reconciliation for Him (2 Corinthians 5:19-20).
- ❖ Let us live in our created purpose. Let's develop a close/intimate relationship with God. Let us serve as an expression of His love. Let's help reconcile others to Him.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Why do you think the Bible describes the creation of humanity in such personal terms?
2. Describe in your opinion the significance of God advising Jeremiah that he was known by God before he was formed in his mother's womb?
3. List and describe several ways we can respond to the drawing of the Holy Spirit.
4. How can we be an expression of love to help reconcile others to God?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, please help me to have a close/intimate relationship with You and serve as an expression of Your love to help reconcile others to You.

Start-up: Do you or would you ever have a pet? What is the best/worst thing about pet ownership?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline