



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC What is My Purpose?

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THEME Common Questions We Must Have Handles To

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In recent times due to the Covid pandemic, mental health issues are on the increase. Research has shown that having purpose in life improves the quality of life (physical and mental). Having a strong purpose in life, persevering in attaining those long-term goals and having ample social support, correlates to happier and healthier lives. In the same way, a godly purpose will enable us to have both earthly and eternal benefits.

DSP Chua reminds us that where many go wrong is when they start to search for purpose within themselves. Instead, the purpose of the creation is always found in the intention of the creator. Just as there are notes and instructional manuals on the purpose and function of technological gadgets, God has left notes and instructions on our purpose and we can find these in His Word.

3 KEY QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY LIFE'S PURPOSE

1. What is the purpose of Life?

Firstly, purpose is not about the acquisition of earthly material possessions (Matt 16:26), neither is it about power, fame, and popularity. All these things will not fill the emptiness in our hearts.

a) Primary Purpose 1 (Being): To be Christ-like

Our purpose in life is to reflect Christ on Earth by conforming to the image of Christ (Rom 8:29). The apostle Paul exhorts the Corinthian Church to imitate him as he imitates Christ, so that both he and the church will reflect Christ.

b) Primary Purpose 2 (Doing): To do Good Works

In addition, we are called to do good works (2 Tim 3:16) which are works that will glorify God (Mat 5:16). These works may include practical actions like sending food to those in need and writing notes of encouragement. The main aim of these actions is to cause people to realize that God is good.

2. How do we grow in alignment with our purpose?

a) How to be Christ-like?

• Time with God

The key word is "Beholding" which means to look, observe, and study the glory (goodness) of God (2 Cor 3:18). Our focus on the goodness of God in our life will lead to our transformation. We should not focus on our disappointments with God, events, and people. Undue focus on negative

circumstances will lead to unhappiness, causing stagnation in growth and inability to be Christ-like. We need to press in to focus on God and his goodness especially when life is tough, so that we will be shaped by our Saviour and not the storms in our lives. This is done through reading God's Word, praying to Him, and worshipping Him with praise and thanksgiving. These spiritual disciplines will facilitate us to behold the goodness of God.

- **Time with Godly Mentors**

We are the average of the five persons we spend the most time with, so we need to spend time with godly men and women (1 Cor 11:1). We are to imitate our mentors, emulate them, remember their teachings, values, perspectives, and patterns of life which reflect Christ. Our careful examination of their lives and efforts to imitate them will result in a reflection of their pursuit of a Christ-like life (Luke 6:40).

- b) How to do Good Works?**

- **Our Missional Calling**

The focus in this sermon is about our missional calling in life, which essentially means something which we are uniquely built to do to glorify God. We need to know our kingdom assignment which is specific to our unique calling, gifting, strengths, and portion in life (1 Cor 12:18). It includes our earthly roles and responsibilities. We are encouraged to explore our missional calling through BBTC's equipping platforms (The Significant Woman, Man of Impact and Maturing Disciple Track).

Everyone has a unique missional calling (Acts 9, Acts 15, Jer 1:5) regardless of age. We are never too young or too old to pursue God's purpose for our lives. On a more practical note, our God-given purpose which includes our roles and responsibilities will encompass the 7 areas of our lives (belief, body, beloved(1 Tim 5:8), best friends, budget, business and be renewed). We are to be purposeful without compromising these 7 areas.

3. Why do we need purpose?

Beyond the obvious benefits of good health and happiness, the glory of God is the reason for the pursuit of our true purpose (being Christ-like and doing good works) in our lives (Mat 5:16). It is always about God and God's glory. Everything that we are and everything that we do must bring glory to God (1 Cor 10:31). We were created for the purpose of bringing Glory to God (Isa 43:7).

CONCLUSION

The pursuit of God's glory is His open invitation to us to be part of something that is bigger than ourselves, longer than our lives, and grander than all creation.

The greatest pleasure of any human is to join God in the eternal purpose of bringing Glory to God (Phil 1:20). Our happiest day will be the day when you see Jesus face to face in His glory, and this is the one thing (glorious presence of God) which will satisfy the emptiness in our lives.

There is no guarantee for us to see the outcome of our labours on earth, but we will see the glory of God in heaven when we run the race that God has set before us.

QUESTIONS

1. A stranger in the lift turns around to you to ask what your purpose in life is. What would you say to him?

2. Between spending time with God and spending time with mentors, which do you find more difficult and why? As a cell, think of biblical and spirit-led ways to overcome these difficulties.

3. Share with your cell the missional call for your life and how God can be glorified through it.