

LIFE ON PURPOSE

Clarity

Too many people get to the end of their lives and are mired in regret. They leave their lives up to fate and wonder why, at the end of their life, they feel it was meaningless. It's time to take back control of our lives and our time and create a life full of direction and meaning. It's time to live with intentionality as we love God and love others. It's time to live Life on Purpose!

What was Jesus's purpose?

Jesus entered human history with the purpose to reveal the character of God and to reconcile humanity to God. Jesus came "to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Christ's life offers insight into our understanding of God. Through Christ, we recognize that God is love and full of grace. Jesus is "the image of the invisible God" and could say to his followers "whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

Jesus reconciled us to God through his life, suffering, death, and resurrection. Christ took on sin and death and overcame them all through his resurrection. Christ restored God's purpose for creation—for humanity to be redeemed from the power of sin and live in a perfect love relationship to God. Jesus accomplished God's mission and was clear in his message to humanity.

Scriptures Worth Reading

Luke 4:18-19 / Colossians 1:15-23 / John 14:1-14 / 1 Cor. 1:18-31

What is your purpose?

All Christians have the purpose of loving God and loving others (Matthew 22:36-40), however, each person has unique skills and passions that provide greater insight into living a life of meaning. At the foundational level of building a purposeful life at any point in your day you can ask yourself, "How am I loving God more fully?" and "How am I showing Christ-like love to others?" In addition to these two questions the three following exercises will help you clarify and pinpoint your unique purpose.

1. Writing your personal purpose statement.
2. Writing your eulogy.
3. Setting and pursuing your "horizontal" goals.

PERSONAL PURPOSE STATEMENT

Use the following questions to help focus your passions and motivations and then write your personal purpose statement.

1. If I could accomplish one thing in my life, what would it be?
2. What are my deepest values? What matters most to me?
3. If I could get a message across to a group of people, who would be those people be? What would be my message?
4. What I am doing when I feel most alive, being completely authentic?
5. What do I need most in my life right now?
6. Who or what inspires me most? What about them inspires me?
7. What specific activities have I done in a past or current job that I really enjoy of find engaging?
8. Assuming all my needs are met, how would I choose to fill my time?
9. What inspires me about the future?

Take your answers to the above questions and write one or two sentences that states who you are and what you aim to achieve. My purpose statement...

Some examples:

- A mother raising kids who are happy, humble, and Christ-centered.
- Fighting to preserve the union and free slaves. (Abraham Lincoln)
- A teacher who brings out the best in students and helps them live for things greater than themselves.
- Living as if I were to die tomorrow and learning as if I were to live forever. (Mahatma Gandhi)
- A follower of Jesus, creative thinker and motivated to help the hungry.
- I want to be the living expression of God's kindness. (Mother Teresa)

MY EULOGY

King David of ancient Israel, wrote, “Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is” (Psalm 39:4). Our time is limited so it’s important to live a focused life. A life that matters, a life of significance. Use the following questions to help write your eulogy. Read over your eulogy on a regular basis and consider what actions you need to take to be the person described in your eulogy.

1. How old do you hope to be when you die?
2. How many more years do you have left if you live as you hope to?
3. What individuals in your life do you want to show a lifetime of love and devotion to?
4. Is there a big vision you want to accomplish before you die? If so, what is it?
5. What are your top three core values? Why is each value important to you?
6. What do you want people to feel on the day they find out you have died? Write some brief quotes about what you want people to say.

Using the answers to the above questions write your eulogy.

THE HORIZON

Successful people and great leaders can “point to the horizon” and clearly state where they are headed – the desired destination or outcome. To lead yourself with purpose and intentionality you must know where you are going. Remember, where there is no vision, the people perish. The Horizon worksheet will help you get clear about what you want to accomplish. For each area write down the two most important destinations or outcomes you desire. Be honest and be specific! Once you have completed the worksheet consider what steps you will take each day to move in the direction of your horizontal future.

HEALTH

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

RELATIONSHIP / SIGNIFICANT OTHER

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

WORK / VOCATION

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

FAMILY

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

SPIRITUALITY / BELIEF

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

FRIENDSHIPS

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

FINANCES

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

OTHER (Recreation, Personal Growth, Home Life, Adventure, Hobby, etc.)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____