

# What On Earth Am I Here For? - 1

## Intro

We're starting a series called "Welcome to the Planet: What on Earth Am I Here For?" Today, in part one, we're going to talk about the challenge to move ahead. Today I want to give you an overview of where we're going with this six-week series, the next five weeks following today. I want to challenge you to move ahead to see if maybe there's an answer to this question "What on earth am I here for?"

But in order to do that you've got to determine in your heart and in your mind if in fact there is a God. Not everybody believes that there is a God. If there is no God there's probably no meaning in life.

*"Unless you assume a God the question of life's purpose is meaningless."*

- Bertrand Russel

So in reality you and I have two options. One option is to believe that there is no God. That you're here by accident. That millions and millions and millions and millions of years ago something happened, some collision in a void darkness and in that collision humanity began to develop and grow. And that all that we know and think and do and be started millions and millions and millions of years ago through a random act of collision.

Or, you may believe something different. Maybe you believe that there is a God. That there is a creator, a designer behind this incredible thing we call earth. And in that design, if there is a designer, there's a couple of options you can go here.

## What if...

If there is no God then there really is no reason to discuss the meaning of life. If there is no God, is there really a reason that you would spend an hour out of your week to come to church. What a waste of time if there is no God. This is a total waste of time. If there is no God, then there should be no morality. There should be no values. There should be nothing to enhance the way that we live our life. Because if there is no God then when you and I die, then that's all there is. So we get a little bit of slice of time.

But would you go down this logic track with me. If there is a God and let's assume, let's pretend, let's imagine. If there is a God and God created the earth, that there is a designer, there is a creator, that God created the earth as the Bible teaches, then therefore there must be PURPOSE to His creation.

If God created the earth and there must be purpose to His creation therefore there's purpose in my life.

Think about it. If there is purpose. If God created the earth and there is purpose behind humanity, there's purpose in my life, then I must PURSUE that purpose and try to get my arms around that purpose and think about that purpose and embrace that purpose and try to live that purpose out. Because if in fact God did create it and design it then chances are that's the way to live life. Or, I must IGNORE it. Really those are my options.

**If there is a God who created the universe.**

**Then there is a purpose for creation.**

**If there is purpose for creation**

**Then there is purpose for my life.**

**I must either pursue God's purposes for my life or ignore it.**

The next few weeks I'm going to teach what the Bible teaches about God's purpose. Then you've got to decide, do I buy into it? Do I either pursue or do I ignore it?

One of the key verses that I want to throw out at you this week

Ephesians 2:10

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

If we are in fact His workmanship then it means that He, as the designer, has a strong interest in what He's created. God is the designer of your life and my life. We look around and other people might not care about you. You might even look in the mirror and not care that much about yourself. You may be an unfortunate person who grew up in a family where you weren't shown a lot of love. But let me tell you this about God's character. In God's heart and in His mind and in all that God is in His character, He loves you as His creation. The Bible says that you are His workmanship.

What we're going to do in this series is we're going to take a look at what the Bible says are the purposes of life, God's intention for humanity.

If you're over here and you don't believe there is a God and you believe that we are all by accident, my friends, it would be a waste of your time. Maybe you could come to try to win some candy or meet some other people or something like that. But in terms of having any impact in your life there's probably no reason to come back.

However if you believe there is a God and He has a purpose for your life here is what we will talk about for the next 5 weeks. Remember you can choose to follow this purpose or not but if you believe there is a God, then you have to admit that God has a purpose for creation.

## **1. Honor - You were planned for God's Pleasure (Worship)**

That God created us to have a relationship with us.

Mark 12:30

*And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*

That's what worship is – loving God with all your heart, mind and strength. A lot of times in this church and other churches here's what we do. When we think of the word “worship” we think of singing.

The Bible is much broader than that when it comes to what worship is. Worship – right now those of you who are here taking notes and listening, did you know that the Bible describes that as worship. When you hear the word, that's worship.

A lot of people think that God wants us to be religious. That's not true. God's not concerned about what “religion” you are. God is concerned about is if you have a relationship with Him. I've met a lot of religious people who don't know anything about God.

We were planned for God's pleasure, not for us to be little robots for Him, to do this and to do that. It's to celebrate Him, to love Him, to love Him with all your mind and soul. Honor God with YOUR LIFE. Not just during ten minutes on Sunday when you come and sing. That's singing. But when you come and listen, that's worship. When you give an offering, that's worship. When you pray, that's worship. How you live your life.

Romans 12:1

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

That means how you live your life is worship to God. You were planned for God's pleasure that you might know Him and have a relationship with Him and celebrate Him and worship Him. Because of that one of the purposes, our purpose is to honor Him with our life.

## 2. Connect - You were formed for God's Family (Church)

You hear people sometimes in church referring to other adults as "brother/sister so and so." That's all part of the terminology of God's family. God wants you to be part of a family, a Christian family.

Romans 12:4-5

*4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

That's what church is. We're all different.

But you and I were created – and here's our response to the fact that we were formed for God's family – our response is to connect with OTHER CHRISTIANS. It's to be in relationships with others, to be connected with other Christians.

If someone said, "Summarize Christianity" here's what I would say: God created you to have relationship with Him first and then have relationship with others. Those relationships with others whether it be friendship, dating, marriage, they don't work best until you have a relationship with the author and creator of all relationships.

You're planned for God's pleasure, you're formed for God's family...

## 3. Grow - You were created to become like Jesus (Discipleship)

Some of you are going to look at this and not get it. "I thought Jesus was the God-man. Does that mean I was created to become a god?" That's what some religions believe but that's not what the Bible teaches.

We are not created to look like Him on the outside. But to be formed like Him on the inside.

Philippians 2:5

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,*

That's one of the reasons we were created – to be more like Jesus.

Our response is to learn to grow on our own. To learn to grow spiritually ON OUR OWN. For those of you in here. God is doing His work and we do our part. We do the possible, what we can do, with faith that God will do the impossible to begin to change our lives.

If you're only growing spiritually when you come to church, if this is the only time you're getting spiritual input you're not growing on your own. If the only time you're growing spiritually is when you come here when I am teaching you, guess what happens when you graduate and the teacher is gone? You will graduate from your faith.

So that's why we have small groups, to get connected with other believers. That's why we want to get you involved in ministry so you begin to grow on your own into the likeness of Christ so when you graduate from high school, you don't graduate from your faith.

I'm happy to be a teacher. I'm happy to be a pastor at this church. I'm happy to teach you the Bible. I'm thrilled that people keep showing up week after week after week. I'm thrilled to play that part. But God created you to grow, to become like Jesus. And you've got to learn to grow on your own. Of course I'm referring to spiritual growth.

## 4. Discover - You were shaped for serving God (Service)

1 Peter 4:10

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

You don't have all the spiritual gifts the Bible teaches about nobody has all the spiritual gifts. But God gives every Christian a spiritual gift when they become a believer.

One of the reasons that we were created is that we were shaped for serving God. So then, our response, if this is true, is to discover how you're gifted and not waste your talent and gifts that God has gifted you. He's given you spiritual gifts. He's given you a heart for something. He's giving you incredible abilities, He's given you a unique personality. He's given you experiences. You pull all of those together and you have been shaped for serving God.

## 5. Reach - You were made for a mission (Evangelism)

That's one of the parts of God's plan. You were made for a mission. As soon as you see the words "made for a mission" you know what happens? It doesn't mean you have to be a missionary it means that God has a mission for you.

Colossians 4:5

*Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*

One of the purposes that God created for you and I is we were made for a mission to reach those who don't know God. That's the mission. Maybe your mission field will someday be Africa. But maybe it will be Sanger High School. Maybe it will be the travel baseball team you're on or the club soccer team you're on or the gymnastics group that you're with. You were made for a mission.

One of the reasons God created us and leaves us here is to tell other people the good news, the good news that God loves them, that Jesus died on the cross to forgive them of their sins. That when He rose again He proved He was God and that God wants us to have a relationship with Him.

Our response to that is to reach out TO OTHERS. That's our response. To share the good news with them.

# A POTENTIAL NEXT STEP...

What is YOUR response going to be?

**One response is going to be this:** “Wow! That’s a lot of stuff that you talked about. I’m not really sure I believe this. I’m not really sure I get it. I’m just checking out this God thing.”

Fair. Totally fair. You were invited by a friend. Or you were forced to come here. Or you’re just kind of on the outside of Christianity looking in. You don’t really get this. That’s ok.

Your 5-week challenge: **RESEARCH the truth**

Will you commit to legitimately research and look into these claims and see if they are true? Will you give it an honest chance with an open mind that its possible this is truth?

**The second response** is somebody going, “I call myself a Christian...but I don’t really live like it.”

Your 5-week challenge: **RETURN to the truth**

I want to say for the next five weeks would you at least return to the truth? Would you come back week after week with an open heart and mind that maybe something will challenge you to return to the truth?

**Then there’s a third challenge.** “I’m not just a Christian. I’m a follower of Christ. I’m committed. I’m sold out.

Your 5-week challenge: **REVOLUTIONIZE your life with the truth**

If this is you where you say, I’m not just a Christian; I’m a follower of Christ. The five-week challenge I want to ask this. I want to challenge you to let this truth revolutionize your life. That those five purposes so invade your life that they change every element of who you are. That’s my challenge to you.

## Discussion Questions:

- What did you think about the quote “Unless you assume a God, the question of life’s purpose is meaningless”? Agree or disagree?
- Do you agree that if there is a God, then He has a purpose for creation? Why or why not?
- How does it make you feel that the God personally has a purpose for YOUR life?
- In your own words, what does it mean to worship God?
- What are some ways we can worship God that don’t include music?
- What does it look like to worship God with your life?
- Why do you think God created us to have relationships with each other and not just Him alone?
- In your own words why is one God’s purpose for us to become like Jesus?
- Why is it important to grow spiritually on your own? What are some ways you can do that?
- What are some ways you have seen God equip people to serve Him?
- What does it mean to that God uses your unique experiences and abilities to serve Him?
- Why do you think God wants us to tell other people about Him?
- Why do you think God wants to use YOU to share the gospel?
- Do you think all of these things come together to give a person’s life purpose and meaning? Why or why not?
- Will you accept the challenge to come back for the next 5 weeks to test this out and see if it’s true?

*“Unless you assume a God, the question of life’s purpose is meaningless.”*  
Bertrand Russell, atheist

**God created the earth**  
therefore...  
**there must be PURPOSE behind his creation**  
therefore...  
**there’s purpose for my life**  
therefore...  
**I must either PURSUE the purpose or IGNORE it**

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10*

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO PURSUE GOD’S PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE...here’s what will be taught the next 5 weeks...**

## **God’s plan...**

### **1. You were planned for God’s Pleasure**

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*

Mark 12:30

### **2. You were formed for God’s Family**

*...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5*

### **3. You were created to become like Jesus**

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philipians 2:5*

### **4. You were shaped for serving God**

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10*

### **5. You were made for a mission**

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Colossians 4:5*

## **Our response...**

### **Honor God with YOUR LIFE**

### **Connect with OTHER CHRISTIANS**

### **Grow on ON OUR OWN**

### **Discover how YOU’RE GIFTED**

### **Reach out TO OTHERS**

## **A POTENTIAL NEXT STEP...**

*“Wow...that’s a lot stuff...I’m not sure...I’m checking this God-thing out.”*

Your 5 week challenge: **RESEARCH** the truth

*“I’d call myself a Christian...but I don’t really live like it.”*

Your 5 week challenge: **RETURN** to the truth

*“I’m not just a ‘Christian’...I’m a follower of Christ.”*

Your 5 week challenge: **REVOLUTIONIZE** your life with the truth