

Who Are You?

Purposed

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Ephesians 1:3–13 NLT

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. 8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. 9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. 11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. 12 God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. 13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.

As we are nearing the end of this phenomenal series about our identity in Jesus we must conclude that the reason for each of these identities is purposeful. We could spend hours and days looking within scripture finding purpose. But there is a primary purpose of why He has placed each of these identities within His children. The purpose is for His plan to come into fruition by including each of us. You may ask the question, “What is God’s plan suppose to look like?” The only way to answer that question is to look into the heart of God. God is unchanging. So this question has been answered time and time again. It always starts with the call to him. As we know this truth, we also know that the call is to be separated from what you are comfortable with. The most relatable illustration of God’s purpose is a story that we are all so familiar with. Turn with me to Exodus 19:4

Exodus 19:3–6 NLT

3 Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce

it to the descendants of Israel: 4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. 6 And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

A direct message to God's people of His purpose for deliverance. A call to be free so that they may serve. To serve as priest. A purpose that was calling them to be different than all others. Their redemption was not purposed for a physical change of position but a transformation of the heart that changed them inwardly and manifested outwardly. This call seems to be so simple when we put it on paper.

Their redemption was purposed to establish a direct and personal relationship with their deliverer. He desired for them to know Him. In the Hebrew understanding, "To know the Lord", is not about abstract knowledge but knowing God by experiencing Him. And how can we experience God if we don't stay at His feet. Any other form of knowing God is defined within scripture in Psalms 103:7

Psalms 103:7 NLT

7 He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.

Moses knew God by His character but the Israelites knew him by what He did. And the sadness is that this is still true today among people. Only a few know God intimately. Those that know God's heart is not because they are more precious or they are called to a bigger ministry. It's not because God loves them more. It's not because their calling is greater than another. These individuals embrace God's purpose to be their own. They neglect to ways and systems of this world. They lost their purpose and now carry out God's purpose. This type of relationship is reserved by only one factor. The fear of the Lord! What is the fear of the Lord?

The Fear of the Lord is a profound and abiding respect and reverence for God and all things that He declares Holy. To give God the most high, the infinite and utmost honor in every area of your life. To deeply tremble in awe at the privilege of His presences and the wonder of His word. To worship God alone with passionate praise and continual thanksgiving.

The Fear of the Lord is to honor what He honors, to love what He loves, to hate what He hates, to make His main thing our main thing.

The Fear of the Lord is an internal disposition that produces fear, dread, and terror at the very thought of offending God. This tempering makes it impossible to the Christian to sin casual, wholeheartedly, persistently, or consistently.

The Fear of the Lord is to depart from evil. The Fear of the Lord is to hate evil.

The Fear of the Lord is a submitting of our will to embrace His will fully. It is a cleansing and purifying agent that endures forever.

The Fear of the Lord is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit and it is Jesus delight.

The Israelites had the very same opportunities that Moses had but their lack of fear kept them limited to an abstract knowledge. They knew God by what He did for them. Their provisions always came because Moses spoke on their behalf.

Their deliverance from Egypt was only the vehicle of the invitation for their hearts to know God personally and intimately. And this same invitation is purposed for each of us. We have been given freedom from the penalty and bondage of sin which is the vehicle that gives us the invitation to know God.

Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

God's plans are His purpose. He knows them and gives us the reassurance that all He has designed for us is for good. His plans are intentional!

David declared in Psalms 37:23

Psalms 37:23–24 NLT

23 The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. 24 Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.

Psalms 139:16–18 NLT

16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. 17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! 18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

David understood because he knew when he was making his own path and when he was following the path that God laid out for him. Not one time did God abandon David while he walked the path that God had ordained for his life. The purpose that each of us are born with is so far beyond our imaginations but the question that must be asked is are we willing to give up our purpose for his purpose. Although God desires and calls each of us for a greater purpose, he will not force our hand. It's a decision that only we can make. We cannot make it for someone else and no one else can make it for us. This decision is not with words but with actions. If our corresponding actions, thoughts, and motive do not align with Gods purpose then we are not a child of God. We may carry a title but have neglected obedience to the call.

Just like God had called the Israelites to himself, he called and purposed Jesus to do the same. Jesus emphasized numerable times about His will is to do the will of the Father. And in Matthew 12 he stated that those who do the will of the Father are his family. Understanding our calling and what we have been purposed for bring the Father glory.

Jesus stated His purpose in Luke 4:18-19

Luke 4:18-19 NLT

18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

The anointing to bring the Good News speaks of His purpose. The reason of why and the timing is set forth by God's intentions. We cannot stop the plan of God so we have to choose if we are going to participate in it or follow our own devise. The choice to operate outside of His plan will be certain destruction. Look at the Israelites in Jeremiah 18:12

Jeremiah 18:12 NLT

12 But the people replied, "Don't waste your breath. We will continue to live as we want to, stubbornly following our own evil desires."

And this was only the first time. Their next encounter with truth they would be bolder in their rebellion. Not as a justification but the fact that it wasn't wrong for them to carry themselves in this manner.

Jeremiah 44:7–14 NLT

7 “And now the LORD God of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, asks you: Why are you destroying yourselves? For not one of you will survive—not a man, woman, or child among you who has come here from Judah, not even the babies in your arms. 8 Why provoke my anger by burning incense to the idols you have made here in Egypt? You will only destroy yourselves and make yourselves an object of cursing and mockery for all the nations of the earth. 9 Have you forgotten the sins of your ancestors, the sins of the kings and queens of Judah, and the sins you and your wives committed in Judah and Jerusalem? 10 To this very hour you have shown no remorse or reverence. No one has chosen to follow my word and the decrees I gave to you and your ancestors before you. 11 “Therefore, this is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: I am determined to destroy every one of you! 12 I will take this remnant of Judah—those who were determined to come here and live in Egypt—and I will consume them. They will fall here in Egypt, killed by war and famine. All will die, from the least to the greatest. They will be an oath of horror, cursing, and mockery. 13 I will punish them in Egypt just as I punished them in Jerusalem, by war, famine, and disease. 14 Of that remnant who fled to Egypt, hoping someday to return to Judah, there will be no survivors. Even though they long to return home, only a handful will do so.”

The Lord address their practices of idolatry. Pastor I thought we were talking about following God’s plan or our plan...but if we understand idolatry, an idol is what we place before God. They were choosing to follow their own ways instead of what God had and was continuously calling them to. What He had purposed them for as we stated earlier was for good. But they were choosing their own path. And watch how they respond.

Jeremiah 44:15–17 NLT

15 Then all the women present and all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to idols—a great crowd of all the Judeans living in northern Egypt and southern Egypt—answered Jeremiah, 16 “We will not listen to your messages from the LORD! 17 We will do whatever we want. We will burn incense and pour out liquid offerings to the Queen of Heaven just as much as we like—just as we, and our ancestors, and our kings and officials have always done in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem.

How much of the church is just like these heathens? Sunday after Sunday, Wednesday after Wednesday, day after day...They hear the message to stop what they are doing, repent, and turn to God. And people justify themselves with these acts of disobedience simply because others do it to. And they see no wrong in what they do. But God’s anger burns against deliberate disobedience.

Jeremiah 44:24–28 NLT

24 Then Jeremiah said to them all, including the women, “Listen to this message from the LORD, all you citizens of Judah who live in Egypt. 25 This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘You and your wives have said, “We will keep our promises to burn incense and pour out liquid offerings to the Queen of Heaven,” and you have proved by your actions that you meant it. So go ahead and carry out your promises and vows to her!’ 26 “But listen to this message from the LORD, all you Judeans now living in Egypt: ‘I have sworn by my great name,’ says the LORD, ‘that my name will no longer be spoken by any of the Judeans in the land of Egypt. None of you may invoke my name or use this oath: “As surely as the Sovereign LORD lives.” 27 For I will watch over you to bring you disaster and not good. Everyone from Judah who is now living in Egypt will suffer war and famine until all of you are dead. 28 Only a small number will escape death and return to Judah from Egypt. Then all those who came to Egypt will find out whose words are true—mine or theirs!

What does the meaning of Judah mean here? Leadership, royalty, praise, and lineage of the Messiah.

What does Egypt mean? Egypt speaks of slavery and bondage of sin. A place where one is forced to serve.

If we could write the message that God is speaking to His church today. “Listen to the message from the Lord all who call themselves Christians or believers who are living in bondage and slavery.” Is this message speak clear to our hearts this morning or are we just like the ones that Jeremiah was speaking to? God’s heart turn to justice because of His love for all. He reserves the right to protect His investment from people that have their own agenda at heart. People that are building their own kingdom by forsaking His.

But those that repent and give up their purpose have been commissioned to take up their cross and follow him. To become a disciple and to make disciples.

Matthew 28:18–20 NLT

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.

Because Jesus chose the way and purpose of the Father, he was given all authority and commissioned His disciples to go and make disciples. And their teachings would not be their own. They were to preach with conviction for people to obey the truths that they themselves had been given.

Each of us have been purposed for the Kingdom of God. So you will have to decide whether you will obey or disobey. Either choice is followed with corresponding actions. The fruit tells on the tree.

Let me pray with you today!