

EASTER

What Makes for a Good Life?

Wayne Braudrick
Life Change: We enjoy the good life in Christ

Ephesians 3-4
March 31, 2024

Psychiatrists Teach Three Things Comprise a Good Life:

Significance

Purpose

Cohesion

The vast and socially powerful narratives of both modernity and postmodernity have offered the world things that look a bit like the Christian gospel but are in fact deadly parodies. Modernity has tried to steal Christianity's clothes with its talk of progress and enlightenment, offering an eschatology without God and a would-be wisdom without God. Postmodernity, in reaction, has given us a harsh doctrine of original sin – the hermeneutic of suspicion is the secular version of that dogma – but without any hope of redemption or forgiveness. There are not, after all, that many great truths in the world. The Christian gospel has them all, and in proper balance. But powerful sub-Christian movements regularly snatch bits and pieces of them and try to put them together in new ways which never actually do what they promise. Modernism already showed its true colours with the guillotine and followed that up with the Holocaust. Postmodernity does to cultural icons what tyrannical empires have always done and are still doing, demolishing everything but with no plans for rebuilding.
– N.T. Wright, *Into the Book of Romans*

In Christ's Resurrection:

We find significance Eph. 3:17-19

We enjoy purpose Eph. 4:11-12

He grants cohesion beyond human imagination Eph. 4:4-6; 13-16

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EASTER

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- **What makes for a good entrance?**
- **What makes for a good day?**
- **What makes for a good life?**

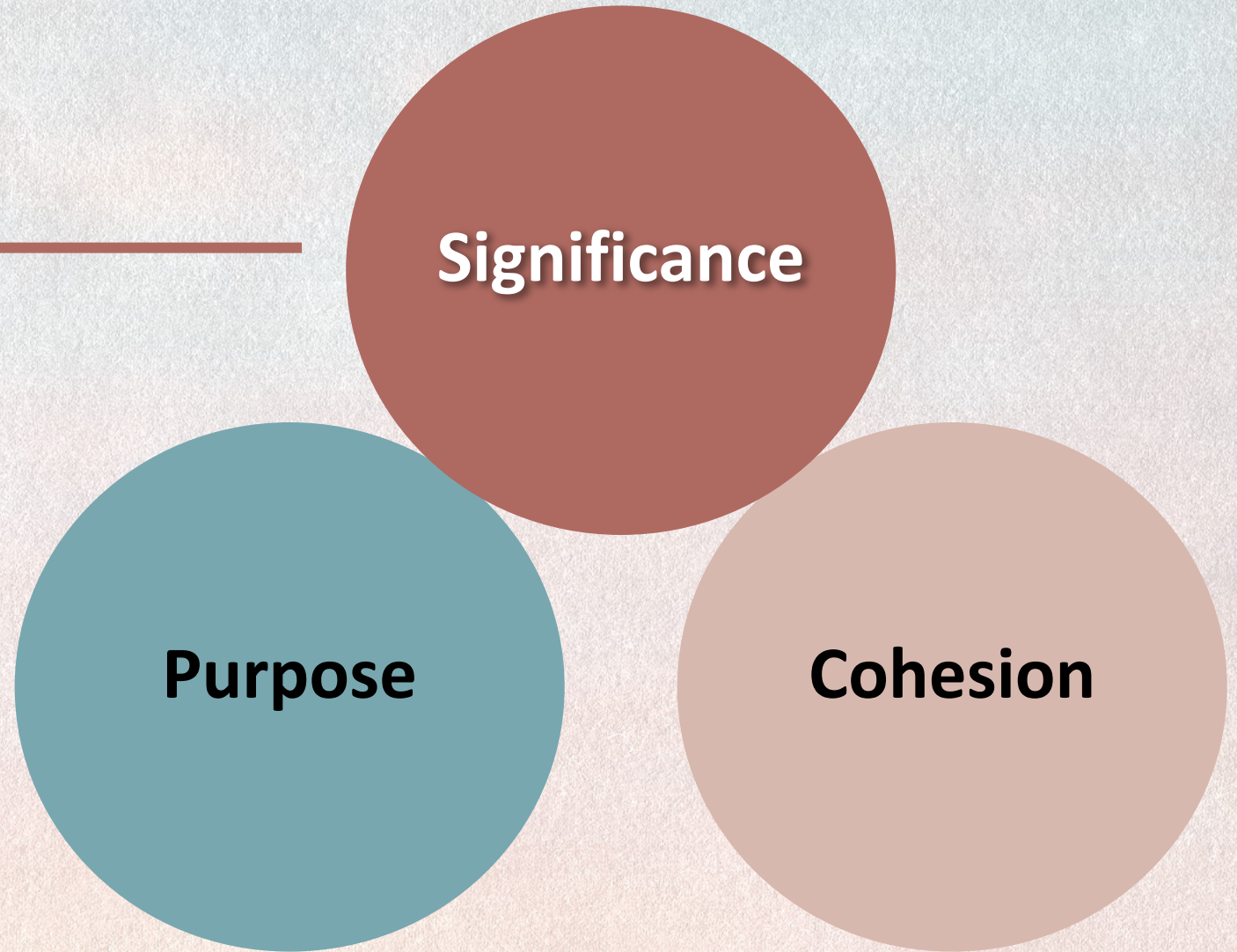


Significance

Purpose

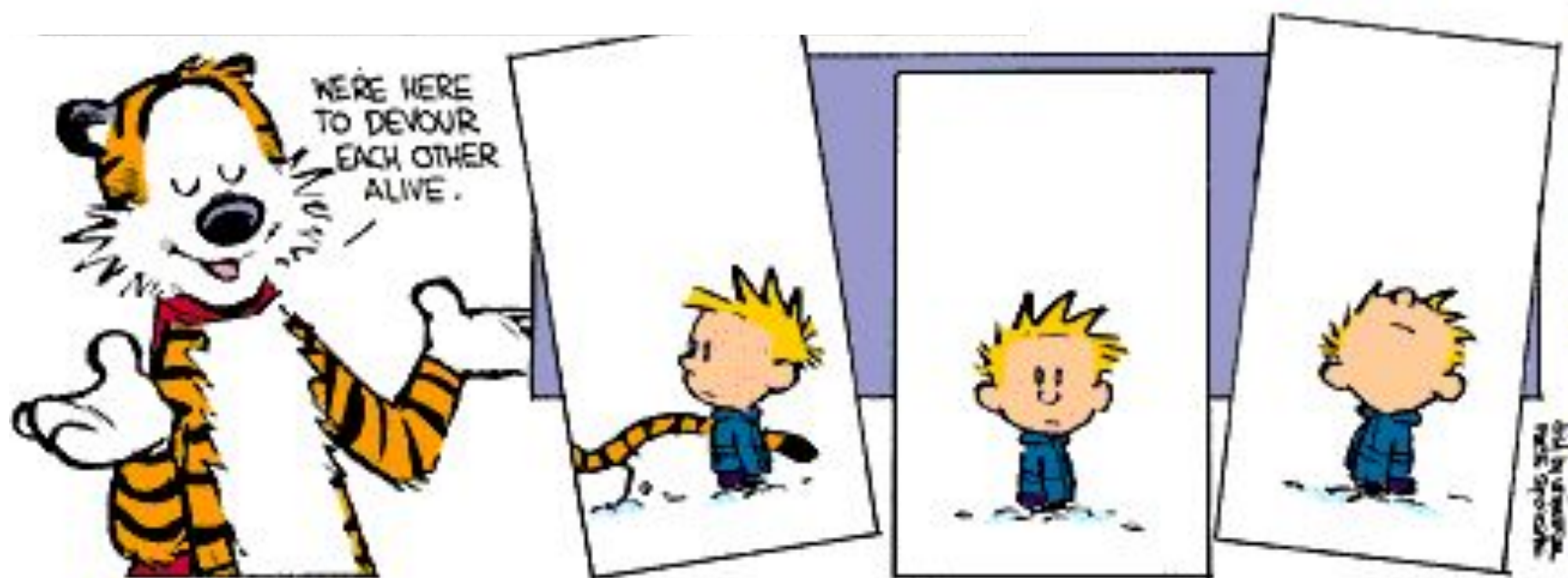
Cohesion

Significance describes the built-in sensation in every person that they desire to matter. This is why we ask questions like, “Does life have meaning?” “Why are we here?” or “Am I important?”

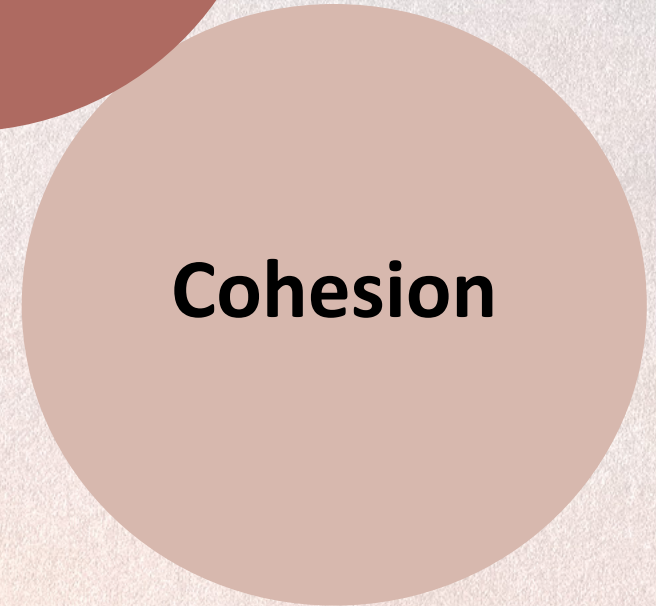
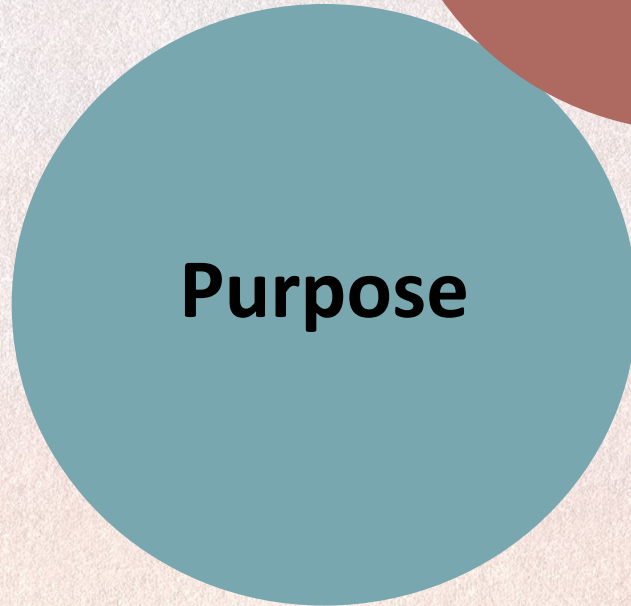


Humanism, the central philosophy of our schools and society, teaches that man...has meaning totally apart from God. [It's] a philosophy that intends to heighten the dignity of man but instead lowers him to the level of animals [because] significance is found only in animal-like predatory behavior.

– Robert S. McGee, *The Search for Significance: Seeing Your True Worth Through God's Eyes*

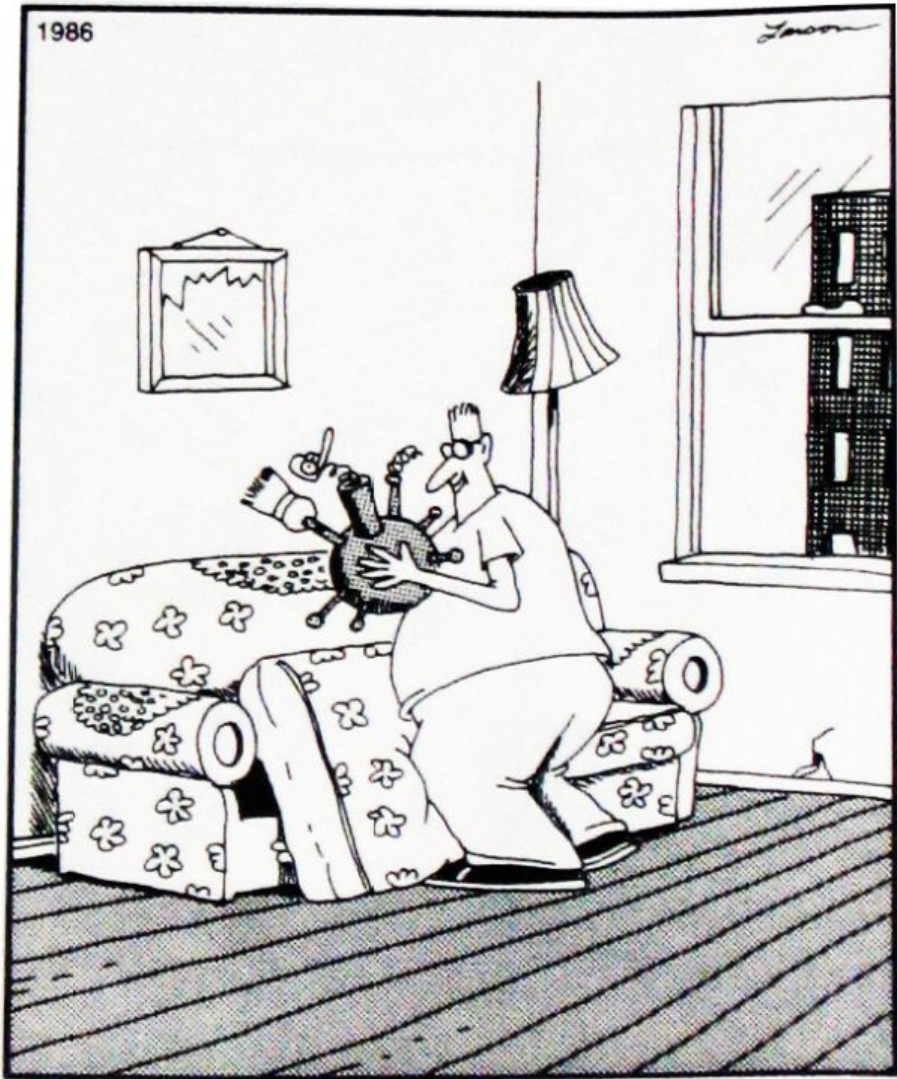


Purpose is the goal of life or the movement toward an aim. Purpose tends to be thought of in action terms.



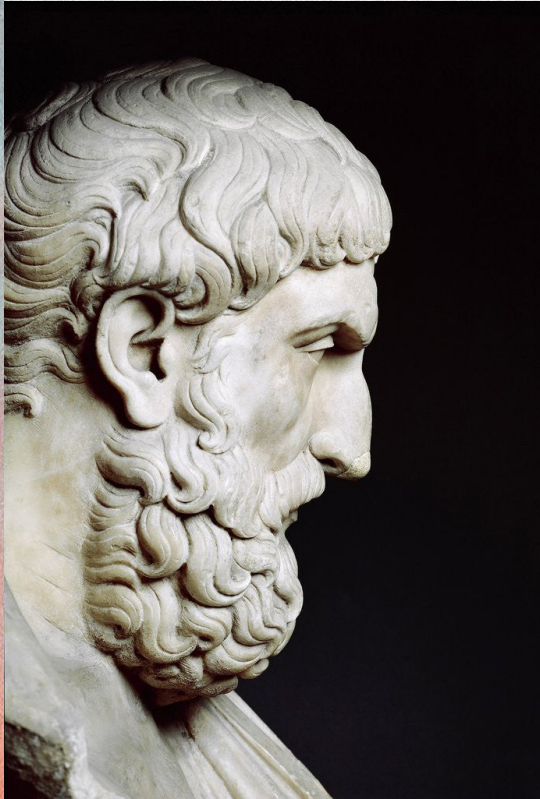
1986

Jason





As a committed materialist, Larson was laughing at himself – showing how only a cartoonish chap like Edgar can really find purpose in materialism. The cartoon is funny because this is a ridiculous purpose.



Many ancient thinkers – like the famous Epicureans – reached the conclusion that purpose can only be found in lack of activity that leads to immaterial personal happiness. Trying to live without fear or pain, they tended to withdraw from public interaction until something pleasurable came along.

Epicurus

Roman copy of 3rd c. B.C. bust



The pursuit of personal happiness has become a modern maxim, crowding out other definitions of the “good life.” [Everything] has become a mere vehicle for our own “well-being.” – Anna Lembke, *Dopamine Nation: Finding Balance in the Age of Indulgence*



Is derived from some source, usually predatory success or popularity.

Significance

Rooted in material action or immaterial personal happiness.

Purpose

Cohesion

Significance

Purpose

Cohesion

**Cohesion demands
some sense of
shared values &
inter-woven
responsibilities.
People find it
exceedingly
difficult to
experience.**

**Oh, the good life, full of fun
Seems to be the ideal
Mm, the good life lets you hide
All the sadness you feel**

**It's the good life to be free
And explore the unknown
Like the heartaches when you learn
You must face them alone**

– Sacha Distel & Jack Reardon, “The Good Life”

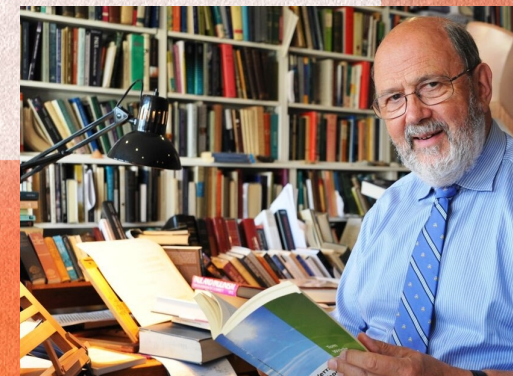




*Eventually they
come for everyone*
Alex Cochrane
2021

The vast and socially powerful narratives of both modernity and postmodernity have offered the world things that look a bit like the Christian gospel but are in fact deadly parodies. Modernity has tried to steal Christianity's clothes with its talk of progress and enlightenment, offering an eschatology without God and a would-be wisdom without God. Postmodernity, in reaction, has given us a harsh doctrine of original sin – the hermeneutic of suspicion is the secular version of that dogma – but without any hope of redemption or forgiveness.

There are not, after all, that many great truths in the world. The Christian gospel has them all, and in proper balance. But powerful sub-Christian movements regularly snatch bits and pieces of them and try to put them together in new ways which never actually do what they promise. Modernism already showed its true colours with the guillotine and followed that up with the Holocaust. Postmodernity does to cultural icons what tyrannical empires have always done and are still doing, demolishing everything but with no plans for rebuilding. – N.T. Wright, *Into the Book of Romans*





Significance

¹⁷ I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, ¹⁹ and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3 CSB

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPHESIANS

PHIL

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

**4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

**5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.**

Psalm 8 NLT



**Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.
– Matthew Birch, “Crown Him”**



**Noah &
Lucas
Aldrich**



courtesy Die Welt

Please insert video here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AC9G9k6g-o8&t=3s> Start at 2:01 “We’re very proud...”

**17 I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love,
18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the
length and width, height and depth of God's love, 19 and to
know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may
be filled with all the fullness of God.**

Ephesians 3 CSB

Noah & Lucas Aldrich



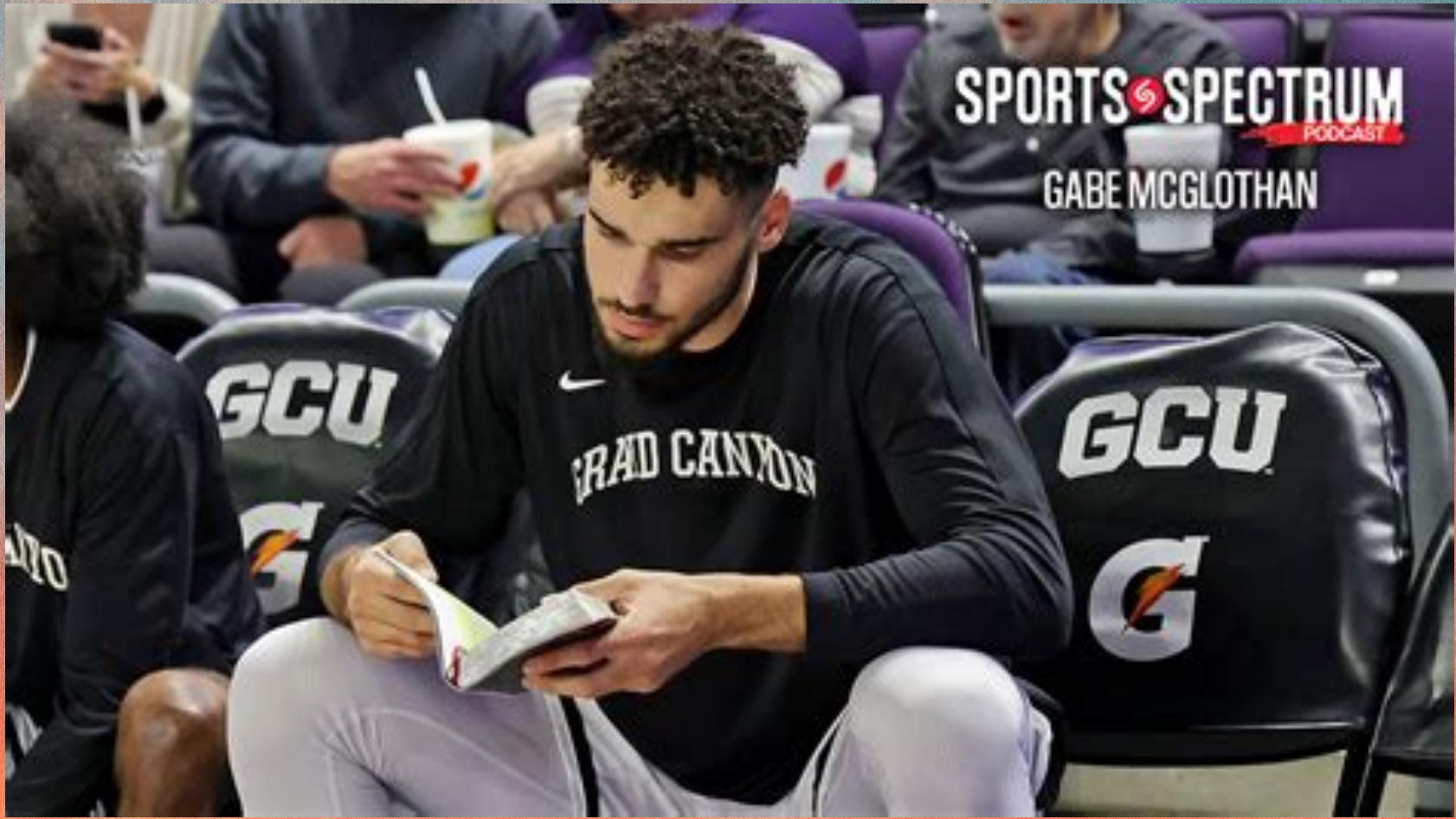
Because of [what Jesus has done] you who trust Him are completely forgiven and fully pleasing to God. You no longer have to fear failure...You are totally accepted by God. You no longer have to fear rejection. You are deeply loved by God. You no longer have to fear punishment...You have been made brand-new, complete in Christ. You no longer need to experience the pain of shame. – Robert S. McGee, *The Search for Significance: Seeing Your True Worth Through God's Eyes*



Purpose

¹¹ And he himself [Jesus] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ

Ephesians 4 CSB



SPORTS & SPECTRUM
PODCAST

GABE MCGLOTHAN

Please insert video here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUFVZoWaVDA&t=244s> 3:52-4:04. Start with “You’re more than just a basketball player...” End with “...later on in life.”



11 And he himself [Jesus] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ

Ephesians 4 CSB



"I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure." ~ Eric Liddell, Chariots of Fire

**Jennie, Jennie.
God made me fat.
And when I eat, I
feel His pleasure.**



courtesy savvyperks



courtesy Steve V



courtesy Penn State

¹¹ And he himself [Jesus] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ

Ephesians 4 CSB

Lack [of cohesion] is often cynically instilled in citizens by the people who are entrusted to lead them. – Robert J. and Karin Sternberg, *Hate*





Cohesion

¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.¹⁴ Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.

Ephesians 4 CSB



Cohesion

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head— Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part. Ephesians 4 CSB

**Christ holds all together,
and thus we live
“in the year of our Lord.”**



¹ Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4 CSB

**Oh, the good life, full of fun
Seems to be the ideal
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Ephesians 4 CSB

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water cohesion

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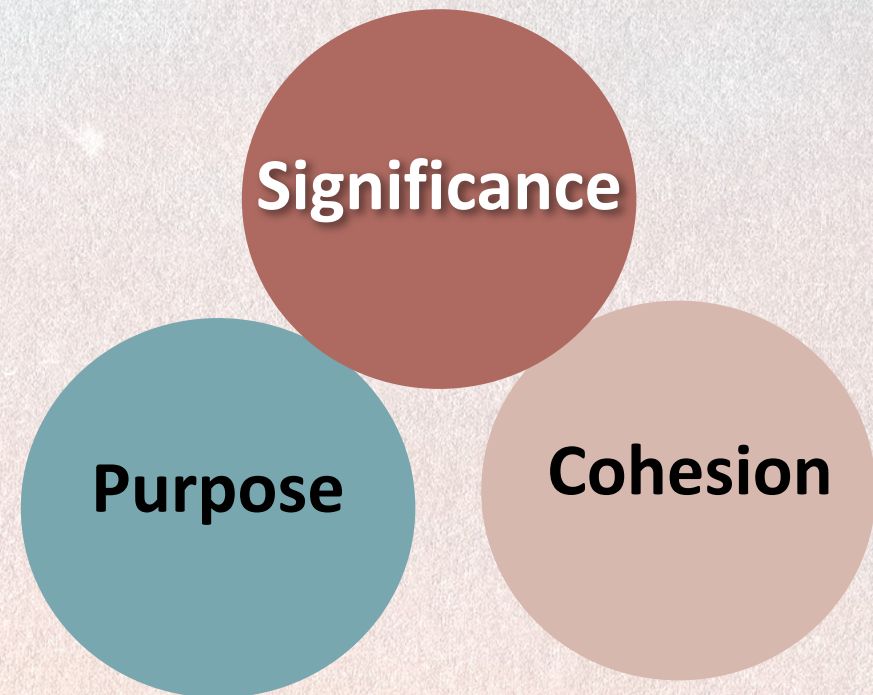
Ephesians 4 CSB

- **Significance is determined by winning or popularity.**
- **Purpose is found in personal happiness or materialism.**
- **Cohesion is unsustainable.**

Kiss the good life goodbye.

– Sacha Distel & Jack Reardon, “The Good Life”

The Christian gospel has them all, and in proper balance.
– N.T. Wright



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