



#4, Purpose: *I Do*

Luke 4:16-21, 43; Acts 13:36, Ephesians 2:1-10, 3:20

You're joining us this weekend as we're wrapping up a mini-series entitled, "The People of God". It's been a series built around what makes the *people of God*, unique! We've talked through some foundational life issues over the past month and today, we're talking about *purpose*. I believe that God has a unique plan and purpose for His people!! It is a purpose that was crafted long before the foundations of the world! This weekend, my goal is to heighten the importance of gaining an understanding of God's purpose for our lives!

Luke 4:18-19

*He's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind
To set the burdened and battered free
(The Message)*

- **In Luke 4, we find Jesus boldly declaring His purpose!**
 - This day was the day of declaration!
 - The great day of unveiling Jesus' purpose...!
 - **Luke 4:43** "*Sent for this purpose*"
 - **1 John 3:8** "*For this purpose that Son of God was manifested...*"
 - Purpose is biblical and is to be pursued!!
 - Living on purpose settles confusion and fills emptiness in your heart.

Acts 13:36

- **David dedicated his life to fulfilling God's purposes on earth!**
 - It's because of this verse that I can begin to grasp why God called David "a man after His own heart."
 - This is David's epitaph...! *Is there a greater epitaph than this statement?*
 - Imagine this chiseled on your tombstone:
 - " *served God's purpose and then fell asleep...*"

God is still inviting people to discover the difference their lives can make when they choose His purposes over their purposes!

- **Perhaps you don't think that your life has purpose!**
 - Or, perhaps you see your life racing away before your very eyes and you're not impressed by what you have in the rearview mirror!
 - Well, I've got some good news for you this weekend...
 - **Turn with me to Ephesians 2...**
 - I want to show you what Jesus does with our lives:
 - *From directionless to purposeful!*

Ephesians 2:1-3

- **This is a snapshot of all of our lives before Jesus!**
 - We were dead in our partying! We were dead in our addictions!
 - We are not just bad people trying to make small life improvements, we were dead people trying to come *back to life!*
 - *I'm here today to tell you that the purpose of your life is far greater than pursuing sex, wealth and the "course of this world..."*
 - **But, for us to realize God's purpose in our lives, we need to realize that purpose begins and ends with God!**

Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God..."

- **We find our purpose through Jesus accomplishing His purpose!**
 - This grace is all that we need to fulfill the purpose of God in our lives!
 - I am convinced that we were all born with God-given potential to change the world around us!
 - *It's completely possible, with His grace in our lives, to live with purpose rather than stumble through our days trying to figure out, "why in the world am I here?"*

We can immediately begin to take steps towards fulfilling the purpose that God has for us because of God's grace in us!

Ephesians 2:6-9

- **God does work in you so that He can do a work through you.**
 - Embrace the way you look, the way you act, and the way you express your gifts because God's purpose is not limited by your past!
 - **God saves people to release them towards their unstoppable potential in Him!!**
 - *God's purpose for your life isn't based on a formula! It is based upon a promise!*

Ephesians 2:10

- **I love the gospel-promise in Ephesians 2!**
 - Transition from verse 1 to verse 10...
 - *Verse 1: "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins..."*
 - *Verse 5: "Made us alive together with Christ..."*
 - *Verse 10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Jesus..."*
 - **We need to realize that God's plan for us is so much bigger and so much more powerful than anything we can currently imagine.**
 - *If God created you on purpose, with a purpose, and for a purpose, then why in the world would you willing to settle for anything less?*

> Ephesians 3:20

- **Jesus has a habit of taking average, "ordinary people" and using them to accomplish extraordinary things.**
 - God has promised us an abundant life, not a dull one!
 - *It's completely possible to live with purpose rather than stumble through our days*

I know that we all desire to live a life overflowing with purpose and passion!

"Ignite God's purpose for your life through becoming acutely aware of His presence in your life!"