

Part 1: What is Your “Why?”

Everything we do is done so with an underlying purpose. Most of the time, our purposeful action is second nature to us. In other words, we don’t realize that every action we perform is on purpose. I have two children and it was not all that long ago that they constantly needed to be told what to do and how to do it. When I would give them direction on how to complete a task their response would be, “Why?” This question was never meant to be dishonoring toward myself or my wife; it was only meant to bring clarification and understanding about why we do things a certain way. The truth is, the old saying, “because I said so” really isn’t a good answer. It’s not a good answer for our children nor for our disciples.

As Christians, it is important that we understand that our identity does not come

out of what we do. On the contrary, our identity flows from who God is and what HE has done. Figure 1 below shows us how our identity and actions flow out of who God is and what he has done and not “I am what I do.” Why does this matter? Because understanding the source of our identity is tantamount to a Gospel-Centered life. The questions of our identity are answered by understanding the story of Christ and how He has changed our trajectory. However, many times we fail to make the connection between our “why” to a Gospel-Centered Mission. We should ask the question of why to properly evaluate our purpose for doing things the way that we do. We need to be positive that our purpose is Gospel-Centered. As we focus on a Gospel-Centered Life and Mission, we see that our WHY often shifts away from the Gospel and more toward our culture.

Figure 1: Gospel Foundations

Who is God? Theology	What has God done? Christology	Who are we? Ecclesiology	What do we do? Missiology
Gracious	Sent his son to die an undeserving death in our place.	recipients of Grace	tell of God’s grace and show that grace to others.
Love	sent his son to reconcile his creation to himself. John 3:16	no longer orphans but children of God	show and speak of his love to those around us

Section Questions

Explain what the Gospel is?

Why are you doing what you do?

What are some things that you are doing now that need to change?

Is there an area of belief in your life you need to repent of in order to move forward?