



The Primal Urge

Pastor Heather Zempel

Good morning, NCC Family. Pastor Heather here as we continue to explore what it means to be a House of and a People of Purpose.

In 2019, The San Diego University College of Medicine produced a study that demonstrated meaning in life was essential for health and well-being.

A recent Gallup survey revealed that 95% of college graduates desired a job that gave them a sense of purpose.

I think that drive to find something worth believing, a meaning worth embracing, a purpose worth pursuing is hard-wired into each one of us. And I believed it was hard-wired into us by God to lead us back home to God.

When writing a screenplay, scriptwriters begin with the statement, “It’s about a guy who…” and the way you fill in the rest of that sentence is make or break. It’s not enough to write a story about a guy who really wants the promotion at work. For that story to be interesting and compelling, that promotion has got to be tied to something deeper. That guy needs to get a promotion to…

- win the affections of the girl he’s been trying to attract or
- get the money desperately needed for his kid’s surgery or
- position him to exact vengeance on his mortal enemy.

It’s what screenwriters call the *Primal Urge*. It’s the reason behind the reason. It’s the thing the character wants more than anything else in the world—and every choice they make is tied to it.

- Hamlet is about a guy who is desperate to know the truth of his father’s death.
- Dorothy just wants to find home

- The Little Mermaid and Luke Skywalker want to escape their own small worlds to experience the reality of something bigger.
- In *The Breakfast Club*, five teenagers- a brain, an athlete, a basket case, a princess, and a criminal—all long for belonging.

What is your primal urge?

To answer that question, I think we have to go a step higher and dig a little deeper and ask:

What is God's primal urge?

Because it doesn't begin with us, it begins with God. And we find our purpose and we find our mission when we find ourselves in him.

I think we find glimpses on the very first pages of Scripture.

In Genesis 2, we read:

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

You were created by God on purpose.

We were created in the Image of God. It's what theologians call the Imago Dei.

Like God, we have been given a will. We are set apart from the rest of creation in that we don't merely respond by instinct. Our capacity for rational thinking—to make right choices-- is distinctively human...it's a dimension of the image of God.

Secondly, like God, we were created for relationship. If you notice the pronouns that are used... let "us" make man in "our" image, to be like "us." Plural words to reflect the existence of God in a circle of perfect, eternal friendship as Father, the Son, Holy Spirit. A theological construct we call the Trinity. Our desire for love, friendship, and compassion is also a dimension of the image of God.

And like God, we were created with the capacity for creation. To produce, to work, and to steward. God first revealed himself as Creator, and we reflect his image when we lean into our divinely ordered creative impulses.

We were created by God on purpose *for a purpose*. That's called the Missio Dei.

Fill the empty places
Create new life
Lead the creation
Bring order to chaos.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God has uniquely gifted, positioned, and prepared you to play a role in the Missio Dei that only you can play. We weren't created to just believe the right things. To internally wish for good things. But to do good things.

You carry the Imago Dei- the image of God as his representative in the world.

And God has challenged you with his Missio Dei- the mission of God- to partner with him in the work he is doing in the world.

Journal Prompt: How might you partner with God with the work he is doing in the world?