

PURSUING YOUR PURPOSE

For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.

Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

❖ Our HIGHEST purpose is to WORSHIP God.

Jesus said, "The most important commandment is this: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

Mark 12:29-30 (NLT)

1. We will tend toward worshipping OURSELVES.

Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing.

Romans 8:7 (MSG)

2. We will move toward worshipping OTHER THINGS.

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God... Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity.

Romans 12:2a (MSG)

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Mark 12:29-30 (NLT)

❖ Our CREATED purpose is to have a RELATIONSHIP with Him.

Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

1. God told Israel, and it is the same for us... He LOVES us FOREVER.

Long ago the Lord said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself."

Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT)

2. God's desire is for us is to SPEND TIME together with Him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

❖ Our DESIGNED purpose is to SERVE Him and others.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

1. We were created to SERVE OTHERS with God.

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

2. We were created to SERVE OTHERS for God

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

❖ Our EARTHLY purpose is to REPRESENT Him in all we do.

We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!"

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

Ambassador - An official envoy, a high-ranking diplomat who represents a state and is assigned to another state as the resident representative for his or her government.

1. As Jesus' Ambassador, I am assigned to make Jesus' PURPOSE known.

Then Jesus came to (His disciples) and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and ²⁰ teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

2. As Jesus' Ambassador, I am responsible to represent Jesus in WORD and DEED.

(Jesus said) "The most important is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all

your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:29-31 (NIV)

❖ Our ETERNAL purpose is to LIVE with Him forever.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

John 14:1-3 (NIV)

1. We will get a NEW BODY.

For we know that when these bodies of ours are taken down like tents and folded away, they will be replaced by resurrection bodies in heaven—God-made, not handmade.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (MSG)

2. We will also get a NEW HOUSE.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV)