

# Worldview Purpose

Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him. For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Isaiah 43:7; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

## QUESTION

English – Purpose: "the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists."

The question "What is the purpose of life?" is the most important question any human can ask. Every worldview answers it. Only the biblical worldview begins and ends with God Himself as the reason for man's existence.

## PURPOSE ACCORDING TO OTHER WORLDVIEWS

### Secular Humanism

Secular humanism openly declares that man is the measure of all things. They say there is no God, so purpose must be self-created. A perfect popular illustration is the tough old cowboy, Curly, in the movie City Slickers. He holds up one finger and tells Mitch the secret of life is "one thing." Mitch asks, "What's the one thing?" Curly answers, "That's what you gotta figure out."

That is secular humanism in a nutshell: you are completely on your own to invent your own "one thing." There is no given purpose, no ultimate reason you exist; you make it up, and when you die, it dies with you.

### Humanist Manifesto III:

"Human beings are responsible for creating their own meaning and purpose."

"Life's fulfillment emerges from individual participation in the service of humane ideals... working to benefit society and enhancing humanity's future."

In practice, this means:

Purpose equals self-actualization, pleasure, relationships, leaving a legacy, or making the world better for future generations.

When suffering, tragedy, or death comes, purpose collapses because it is built on temporary, man-made things.

The result of such a subjective worldview is false satisfaction or despair. If there is no God, then ultimately nothing matters. As one atheist philosopher said, "We are dancing on the deck of a sinking ship."

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## Typical "Christian" View

Many who name the name of Christ actually hold a man-centered view of purpose that borrows heavily from secular humanism and adds a thin layer of religious language.

Common statements:

“God wants you happy, healthy, wealthy, and fulfilled.”

“Your purpose is to discover your passion and live your best life now.”

“God has a wonderful plan for your life” (meaning comfort, success, and self-actualization).

"The cultural mandate means Christians are to take dominion, transform society, and build the kingdom through politics, arts, and education."

This view makes man the center and God the means. Happiness, personal fulfillment, legacy, or cultural impact become the real ultimate purpose. God exists to help you achieve your dreams.

This is not the biblical worldview. It is baptized secular humanism. Scripture never promises comfort or success in this life. It promises perspective and hope in the midst of tribulation, persecution, and the afflictions of this life (John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12). The apostles were homeless, beaten, and executed, yet they counted it joy because their ultimate purpose was being fulfilled.

## BIBLICAL OBSERVATIONS OF HUMAN PURPOSE

Ecclesiastes – Solomon had everything secular humanism and typical Christianity chase: wealth, sex, power, achievement, pleasure. His conclusion: all is vanity apart from fearing God and keeping His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Philippians – "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). While in chains, he wrote, "This is happening for the furtherance of the gospel... Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice" (Philippians 1:12-18). His circumstances did not determine his purpose; Paul understood his purpose and was content to live by it.

## THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW OF PURPOSE

### The One Ultimate Purpose

Scripture never presents multiple ultimate purposes. There is only one. God has given man his purpose: glorify God (Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Romans 11:36).

This is not arrogance in God; when man glorifies God, the light of the salvation of God shines to others. To glorify God means to live in such a way that God is shown to be great, valuable, and central in all things. This is done when we honor God in our thoughts, words, and actions so that others know who is most important.

Eating, drinking, working, marrying, raising children, suffering, dying—every act either glorifies God or fails to (1 Corinthians 10:31).

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This ultimate purpose is worked out by knowing God and loving God with the whole heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-38). As previously stated, we love God (glorify God) when we honor God in our thoughts, words, and actions.

## Subordinate Purpose

The second purpose in this life is to love one another. All legitimate "purposes" in this life are simply the second great commandment lived out in specific relationships: love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39).

The Bible orders these relationships in clear concentric circles of responsibility:

### 1. Spouse (if married)

The highest of any human relationship is the husband and wife, and it is the purpose of spouses to love one another (Genesis 2:18, 24; Ephesians 5:25).

### 2. Household

The family is a valued part of God's design, and how we love our families is a testimony to God. Families are to bring children up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Likewise, all are to provide for their own, and especially for those of their household (1 Timothy 5:8).

### 3. Local church assembly

Love the brethren with a pure heart fervently (1 Peter 1:22). Serve one another with whatever ability or resource God has given you (1 Peter 4:10; Galatians 5:13). Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). Do not forsake assembling together (Hebrews 10:25). Do good especially to those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).

### 4. All men (neighbors, enemies, rulers, unbelievers)

Do good to all (Galatians 6:10). Live quietly, work with your hands, behave properly toward outsiders (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). Be ready always to give an answer for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15). Bless those who persecute you (Romans 12:14).

Love is a choice, an action that is not based on feeling or even if we like the other person. Believers are to love everyone, but we must keep it in proper order. The secondary purpose for man is to love; how we love one another is an expression of how we love God. Work, money, recreation, art, politics, technology, and environment are functions but not our purpose. They are tools to fulfill the duties of love.

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## In Other Words

### The Functional Expression of Purpose

Service is how to love and is directly connected to the why (God's glory).

1 Peter 4:10–11 (Epistles)

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1. Love/Service for Man: The function is "serving one another."
2. Glory for God: The motivation and end result is "so that in all things God may be glorified." The purpose of serving/loving others is the glorification of God.

### The Eschatological Conclusion of Purpose

Romans 11:36 – "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

This verse places the ultimate purpose into the larger plan of God for the entire cosmos, confirming the expectation that the goal is the praise of God's character. The entire sweep of existence: Creation (from Him), Sustaining (through Him), and End (to Him), is directed toward the final purpose of God receiving glory. This is the Ultimate Objective that frames all human purpose and activity.

### The Synthesis of Purpose in Life

Colossians 3:14 – "Beyond all these things put on **love**, which is the perfect bond of unity."

This speaks to the necessary *characteristic* of human relationships. Love (*agapē*) is not merely an action but is also the "perfect bond" that holds the entire Christian community together. A failure in love is a failure in executing the overarching purpose. This demonstrates the functional necessity of loving one another to fulfill the purpose of reflecting God's unified nature.

## CONCLUSION

The biblical worldview teaches that life's purpose is to glorify God by knowing and loving Him, and by loving others, starting with family, then the church, and all people. When God is the center and love is performed, all aspects of life gain eternal significance, making every action worthwhile.