

 **Candlewood Church**
IDENTITY- The Good Life
June 2, 2024

Glenn Garvin



BIG IDEA – God gives us autonomy, authority and ability. What will we do with it?

scripture focus - [Romans 6:12-14](#) Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. **So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.**

-
- **We are created on purpose for purpose.**
 - Our **free choice shattered what** we see as the image of God in us and in others.
 - **Life is a miracle.**
 - **We’re crafted to connect.**
 - **Eye on the vulnerable**
 - **Nuncio to the Nations**
 - **Amity to our Enemies**
 - **What does God consider to be the “good life?”**

How many of us want the “good life?” I’ll let you self-define what that means. For some it means having money. For some, it means having a wife or a husband. For some it means owning a home, having a fulfilling job or a happy life.

But if I were to ask each one of us, “how do I get the ‘good life’? There would be a bunch of different answers.

What does God consider to be the “good life?” **God has made us in His image to behave like God, but not become God. The “good” life is supposed to be the “God” life.** A life full, beautiful, and productive is a life that is doing the good work of God in the Kingdom of God. A follower of Jesus is intended, even

expected, to reflect a life that is busy looking and behaving like Christ. It is our highest purpose in life.

If you're thinking, "ok, Glenn's gonna get all preachy here, and tell us what the Bible says is the good life."

Yes & No on the preachy part.

We are wrapping up our series called IDENTITY and have been looking at the fact that God made us on purpose for a purpose. We also have looked at how God designed us to have choice (which brought brokenness to us and the world), and to flourish in community.

To be clear through this whole concept of our image, our identity coming from God because he designed us, he created us. It makes sense that we would ask, "what for?"

I just have to be honest with you. **God wants us to have the "good life," but with God this would mean having the "God life."** God has received a bad rap for being a downer or just a do-gooder.

You know where the fake news came from? The historical story that's been twisted to look like God is no fun and he just wants to crash our parties and keep us from really living!

Yeah, that sounds just like the thief and liar that I know.

Jesus did not come to ruin our lives, he came to save our lives – here, in this life and eternity.

Let's remind ourselves of what God had planned right at the beginning – before sin, before we broke stuff.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth. Genesis 1:28

Q: Which part of Genesis 1:28 sounds like God is against us or is trying to keep us from that 'good life' we so desperately want?

God is fruitful, we are fruitful.

God multiplies, we multiply.

God creates plentiful abundance; we can create plentiful abundance.

God works, we work. Not just that its good, but it also works well – it is practical.

Look what God does with His power. He shares it with humanity!

God calls humans to work and to rule. God shares His authority with us. He tells us to subdue and rule.

Think of it like this.

I love tools. **I love tools that makes work easier and more fun.** I like tools that are very specifically designed to help me build things and repair things.

I get very frustrated using a tool to do a job that it wasn't designed to do.

There is not one tool that can fulfill all purposes!

They say, **if you give a child a hammer, they go looking for a nail. If they can't find a nail, they go looking for something else to pound!**

[Abraham Maslow](#) wrote in 1966, "If the only tool you have **is** a **hammer**, it **is** tempting to treat **everything** as if it were a **nail**."

Although there are thousands of tools, they all tend to have a general purpose of being a tool, and a very specific purpose that fits the job necessary.

Don't go out of here thinking I called you all a Tool... only some of you are that!

BTW, I also like inventor's stories. I like to invent things in my head, but I never act on them. People think my ideas are strange and I am okay with that. I'd tell you some of them, but I'm afraid someone will steal the idea and make a lot of money!

I also love tools because they were designed.

[The Crescent Wrench](#)

In 1907, William Petersen founded the Petersen Manufacturing Company, and in 1915, he introduced the world to the first crescent wrench. **Designed by a man named L. Coes**, it featured a **movable jaw that could be adjusted by turning a small worm gear**. This design was so successful that the company, Crescent Tool Co., was named after it.



Ah, but the Crescent wrench was for **when I was young and foolish**, trying to use it for everything - **mostly a hammer or hitting things in anger when it slipped off a nut and I rounded the thing!**

But then I became a man and discovered the...

[The Vise-Grip](#)

The first locking pliers, with the trade name Vise-Grip, were invented by **William S. Petersen** in De Witt, Nebraska, United States in 1924.



God designed us with a general purpose and a specific purpose!

God gives humanity purpose and boundaries.

"The imago Dei designates the royal office or calling of human beings as God's representatives and agents in the world, granted authorized power to share in God's rule or administration of earth's resources and creatures." - J. Richard Middleton

Genesis 1 is before the fall. Before sin. Before Jesus came, needing to restore us.

But we live in a post Genesis 1 world! **None of us can do what God asks of us without Jesus.**

Along with the **God life** he has planned for us, **our own sin constantly leads to us away & astray, which is eventually means death not life – and failure instead of flourishing.**

We turn purpose, provision and good into self-serving enterprises.

Our choices become catastrophic. **Because of sin our behaviors create havoc, multiplied pain, suffering and we cultivate evil.**

When given to lead in our brokenness, we create systems of power and oppression millions of people suffer injustice. We dream of a system of that would make everyone equal and fair, but that balance is impossible to find with humans in control. **The oppressed fight their oppressors, only to become oppressive themselves, creating the cycle of human suffering.**

Jesus came to do all that God wanted and all that we could not do on our own.
Inés Franklin

Jesus regularly expressed the purpose for His coming.

A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.
John 10:10

This is what God gave Adam and Eve before the fall, before sin. The good life, it's what everyone is looking for.

The good life had boundaries, but it also came with abundance. The God life today has boundaries, but also comes with abundance.

Jesus comes to restore what sin has snatched and shattered.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven." 1 Corinthians 15:49

This is a powerful promise for us. We get to participate with God in His kingdom. We bear the image of Adam; we also bear the image of Christ.

You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.
Colossians 3:10

Being transformed into the likeness of Jesus is the pinnacle of our existence. It allows us to be restored to live God's life – His good life for us.

We get to participate in the Kingdom of God! This blows my mind. I don't feel equipped, I don't feel worthy, and I don't feel like I can be spiritual enough to make things happen!

Just like tools we have design and purpose for God to use us. We are not all the same in the specific ways we are uniquely designed, but like I'm not supposed to use a Crescent Wrench to pound nails!

General purpose:

- **Created to create**

"God shares power with creatures, inviting them to participate (as they are able) in the creative process itself."

- J. Richard Middleton, *The Liberating Image*

You have to admit we can and have created some amazing things!

I was talking with a friend about all the different inventions of humankind.

Steven Johnson wrote a book, [How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World](#).

Johnson says that these six discoveries or inventions made the modern world possible: **glass, refrigeration, recorded sound, water purification, clocks, and artificial light.**

If you really want to get all philosophical, we have realized for every **great** invention for good, there has been an equal number of great inventions that were used for evil.

Just look at some of the newest discoveries:

- [Crispr](#) (Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats) and the ethics of human genome editing.
- A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) the [ethical considerations](#).

We create beauty worldwide, especially when we band together.

We were all created to be creative! Everyone has these abilities or talents. Some may not have every had a chance to realize it.

- **Created to multiply**

This is more than just having babies.

God sends us to bless and be a blessing.

He told Abram, I will bless so you will bless others.

- Abraham - blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:1-4)
- Joseph - sent to Egypt to "preserve life" (Genesis 45:4-5)
- Moses - sent to Egypt to bring "liberation" (Exodus 3:10)
- The Prophets - were sent with words of warning and promise (Jeremiah 7:25-26)
- Ruth – Great Grandmother of King David and saving the heritage and bloodline of Christ through her faith (Ruth 4:13-15).
- Rahab – Protecting and saving the spies and bloodline of Christ (Joshua 2:4-7).
- Esther – Saving the Jews from genocide (Esther 4:14)
- Mary – Faithfully believed God and bore Jesus (Matthew 1:18)
- The Disciples - are sent by Jesus to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)

Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. **The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.** John 15:4-5

The Father is glorified when we produce much fruit.

When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. John 15:8

"It's not about you. The purpose of your life **is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions.** If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose."
- Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life

I know we want it to be about us and for us – but God did not design us to be to be SEEDLESS FRUIT!

Share your faith, talent, treasure, home and stuff. Share you time and your privilege. Multiply. Collaborate to do even more than we could do alone. Celebrate work, it's a virtue.

Q: Where is God calling you to multiply?

- **Created to cultivate**

This is mind-blowing. **Genesis 1:28 – we stand alone from the rest of creation.**

Two Hebrew words are used in vs 28.

- **kabas = subdue**
- **rādâ = rule**

These two words are words of royalty.

We are called to organize and structure, protect and direct creation as a king would his kingdom.

This is power shared, rather than power delegated. Power distributed rather than just given to a few elite people. This is power to serve, not hoarded or used to favor some over others.

Not power over but power with. Stewardship.

But it's not our kingdom, it's God's Kingdom and we get to rule in it.

This is a different kingdom than that of Babel, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome, Germany or even the United States. It's an upside Kingdom that belongs to God himself.

The presence of His image is a presence of responsibility. Subdue doesn't imply violence or mistreatment. It means acting justly as Micah says. Loving faithfulness and walking humbly before God.

Subdue' implies that God intends for man to not leave his creation alone but instead to work it and form it and advance it.

- Daniel Darling

John Chrysostom, early Church Father who served as archbishop of Constantinople. He is known for his preaching and public speaking.

"It is absurd ... for those who are called to reign with Christ to choose to be captives to sin, as if one should throw down the crown from off his head and choose to be the slave of a hysterical woman who comes begging and covered in rags.... How is it that sin can reign in you? It is not from any power of its own but only from your laziness."

- Chrysostom

Think of this as sins of distraction, sins of self, sins of seeking the good life outside the God life!

The Apostle Paul is less direct, less abrasive, but nonetheless straight to the point!

[Romans 6:12-14](#) Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. **So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.**

Paul also wrote to the churches in Galatia concerning their life and what he calls their "freedom in Christ."

[Galatians 5:13](#) For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. **But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature.** Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

What have we heard? What have we learned in this series?

God's image is in every human being because He created us!

It's important for us to see God's image in ourselves as well as others.

Our own choices shattered and marred that image, and the only way to restore it is through Jesus.

Yet, even still as image bearers, humans have the God given ability to create, multiply, and cultivate either good or evil.

But honestly, to actually be consistent in those characteristics, is to allow Jesus to redeem us and restore us back to God and the rest of humanity.

God gives us autonomy, authority and ability.

What will we do with it? What will you do with it?

Everything I have, God has given to me. Everything I am, God has saved me, healed me and matured me. Of all that I have and all that I am, what can I give and how can I serve? That is how I am seeing life in this season.

NOTES

Scriptures

Genesis 1:28 Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.

John 10:10 A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

1 Corinthians 15:49 And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Colossians 3:10 You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.

John 15:4-5 Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. **The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.**

John 15:8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

Romans 6:12-14 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Galatians 5:13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Further Notes for Study

The Abundant Life in Christ

The image of God includes the whole person, both structure (reason, morality, etc.) and function (worship, service, loving, ruling). Just as an eagle's wings are the primary structure that allow her to fly (function), so we need wisdom to represent God and make Him known in the world. This week's study has been fashioned to help you along this journey.

As we now enter the final week of this study, we will delve deeper into the "functional" part of our identity. The image of God in humanity has enormous implications for our everyday behavior, our human interactions, and our responsibility to care for the Earth. As we develop a greater understanding of our identity as image bearers of the Almighty God and embrace our missional calling, we can better participate in God's Kingdom and increase our passion for His reign.

"It is absurd ... for those who are called to reign with Christ to choose to be captives to sin, as if one should throw down the crown from off his head and choose to be the slave of a hysterical woman who comes begging and covered in rags.... How is it that sin can reign in you? It is not from any power of its own but only from your laziness."

Chrysostom

"Needless to say, the ability to make choices is a most important capacity. It is basic to human existence. Apart from it, there can be no responsibility, no dependability, and no planning. Apart from it, there can be no education, no religion, and no worship. Apart from it, there can be no art, no science, and no culture. The ability to choose is a sine qua non of all human life."

Anthony Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*

Liberating Freedom

Jesus Christ has set believers free from bondage and their enslavement to sin. He has made us able to resist temptation and live righteously. This is why the Apostle Paul urges us not to be burdened again with the work of earning our salvation. He deals with the question of true freedom in Romans 6. The good news of Jesus Christ has the power to change lives!

In what way does the freedom that believers have in Christ allow them to reflect and represent God to the world? What happens when Christians behave contrary to this freedom?

When you consider yourself "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus," how does it affect the temptation to rely on yourself?

READ Romans 6.

REFLECT on Paul's words in Romans 6:12-14.

Q: What does Paul mean by "use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right?"

Q: Paul says that sin is no longer our master. What does he mean? Who do we serve? Who is in control?

Romans 6:13-14 gives us instructions about how to walk in the freedom Jesus has given us.

Make a list of these instructions in your own words.

[Romans 6:12-14](#) Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. **So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.**

READ and REFLECT on Galatians 5:13.

Q: What do you think about Paul's compare/contrast **to use freedom to satisfy or to serve?**

Q: Paul gives us an example of "using our freedom to serve." In what way does this apply to how God created us to create, multiply and cultivate?

[Galatians 5:13](#) For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Grace can be distorted. When God saves and accepts people apart from what they deserve, it's easy to lack the motivation to obey. It can be hard to keep yourself motivated to live in the freedom you've been given through Christ. Write a prayer to ask the Lord to help you live out the freedom you have in Christ, one small action at a time, all the time.

Here is a beautiful prayer you can also pray:

"Make me a captive, Lord, And then I shall be free;

Force me to render up my sword And I shall conqueror be."
George Matheson

Shared Power

"The Christian community does not live from itself and for itself but from the sovereignty of the risen Lord and for the coming sovereignty of him who has conquered death and is bringing life, righteousness, and the kingdom of God."
Jurgen Moltmann

Through the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, we read stories in which God empowered a prophet or a leader to do great things. It's tempting for us to assume these were special people with special assignments. But that is not the case. God does not change. His redemption plan has been in action from the beginning, never losing its laser focus. God chooses to care for His "very good" creation through the imperfect vessels of humanity. He even empowers them to do what they could never do on their own.

Let's read one story that demonstrates this remarkable truth about our image-bearing privilege.

READ Luke 10:1-20.

Jesus expects us to do more than to listen to His teaching. He forces us to decide to live His way or the world's way. Yet this expectation blesses us, for it demonstrates God's desire to empower His children to do the work He created them to do. God even shares His power with His children, giving them the ability to work the harvest and bear fruit.

In today's reading, we learn about a time when Jesus empowers people to do the work of His ministry. The assignment seems simple: preach and heal. He empowers His followers to bring His peace, heal the sick, and exercise authority over demons. But He sends them out with several warnings and limitations.

Jesus does not promise that the task would be easy.

Q: What clues do you see in the text about the difficulties they would face?

Q: What do the disciples learn about how God's power can operate through them? What limitations did they face? Make a list of them. What if they found no limitations while doing the work?

REFLECT on Luke 10:16.

“Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

The comfort of this world and the security it offers exerts a strong pull on us, but the eternal salvation offered in Christ exerts even more. Therefore, Jesus equips the messengers to place the same demands on the people that they themselves were under. None of us enjoy rejection, so we can assume God does not like it either. Rejecting the gospel message has consequences, yet God allows us to choose. Saying “no” to God’s messengers is saying “no” to God.

How does the work of the disciples demonstrate God’s willingness to share His mission with humanity? How do you think this work brought joy to the “seventy-two”?

Q: What can you learn from the experience of the “seventy-two” about how God empowers you, equips you, and sends you?

Q: What joys have you experienced when you collaborate with the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit? What things have you been able to accomplish by His power?

PRAY: Worship and praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him and His willingness to equip you for His good work.

Garden Witnesses

READ Colossians 1:3-29.

[Colossians 1:6](#) This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

Paul often connects our freedom in Christ to the work of mission. The hope of the gospel makes a witness out of us (Acts 1:8) and draws our attention, if we let it, to the needs of people and nature. It takes us back to the Garden of Eden, to the call to “cultivate” (to develop, plow, prepare, fertilize, mulch, nurture, water) the “Earth.” It is a work of the highest calling, for it grants us the privilege of caring for God’s “very good” creation.

In today’s reading, Paul affirms the faithfulness of the saints in Christ in Colossae, and he continues to encourage them to “walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God”

(Col 1:10). In verses 4-5, Paul lists three traits fundamental to Christian character: faith, love, and hope.

Q: How do these traits (faith, love and hope) equip believers to do the work of cultivating God's creation?

Part of caring for God's "very good" creation entails sharing the good news of the gospel with others and caring for the environment—Earth, animals, fish, birds and plants of every type. It includes being sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable persons.

It raises our awareness of the need to pray for our leaders and those in authority (just to name a few). God is pleased when believers grow in their faith and participate in the care of all creation.

Q: Where have you seen Christians fall short of their calling? Where have you seen Christians "cultivate" well?

"Why should we be concerned about the environment? It isn't just because of the dangers we face from pollution, climate change, or other environmental problems—although these are serious. For Christians, the issue is much deeper: We know that God created the world, and it belongs to Him, not us. Because of this, we are only stewards or trustees of God's creation, and we aren't to abuse or neglect it. The Bible says, 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it' (Psalm 24:1).

When we fail to see the world as God's creation, we will end up abusing it. Selfishness and greed take over, and we end up not caring about the environment or the problems we're creating for future generations."

Billy Graham

Q: Consider those words of Billy Graham. How can we do a better job of caring for creation?

REFLECT on Colossians 1:24-29.

Authentic ministry is hard work. Paul suffered greatly as he sought to serve Christ. In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul lists the many challenges he faced. He willingly suffered for the one who suffered for him. Paul willingly worked hard to present "everyone mature in Christ." He was a faithful witness, willing to work on the hard soil of people's hearts.

In what way have you found it difficult to do the "work" the Lord calls you to?

Q: To what areas of His “very good” creation are you willing to go to be His witness?

Q: Where do you find the hard work a joy, even when it gets very challenging?

PRAY: Thank God for the good effect of the gospel in your life. Ask Him to provoke you to participate in the work of caring for people and creation.

From Glory to Glory

READ: 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:3-6, Colossians 3:9-10; Romans 8:29-30.

Today's passages make the most remarkable promise. They each point to the goal that God has in mind for us once we accept His Son. Every believer is in the process of being renewed, transformed, conformed to Christ, “who is the image of God.”

Q: What stands out to you the most from these passages?

Q: How do they encourage you to lean in toward the call to embrace your image-bearing identity, as great as that image is, despite its current distortion by sin?

Jesus is the only perfect example of image-bearing. The Incarnation is great news, for it provides us a clear picture of what it looks like to represent God in the world. None of us will be able to do this perfectly, as only Jesus was perfect. Not even Paul was perfect. He lamented his slow progress, admitting that he had not yet attained perfection. But by the power of the Holy Spirit, we're on the right path!

Consider the apostle's words:

Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 3:12-14)

Q: How does Paul's posture help you with your own journey?

Q: What do you need to leave behind to embrace your God-given identity of being created in the image of God—on purpose for a purpose?

Reflect on Romans 8:29-30.

Q: In what way does Paul define the destination for which Christ followers are appointed? How does it encourage you?

We are works in progress, awaiting final glorification. Humanity has received the image of the Son. God predestines, calls, justifies, and glorifies. Our new nature is being made ever newer as we increase in the knowledge that is in Christ. As we increasingly share in His glory, righteousness, and holiness, and so begin to become more like Him, we also increasingly reflect His image.

“So in the end the future of humanity and the future of the universe will come together. On the new earth all creation will be totally and eternally free from all the results of sin and from all the remnants of the curse, when it will share with all the sons and daughters of God the magnificent freedom that will be theirs! And at that electrifying moment the goal of redemption will have been reached. For from that moment on the entire sin-cleansed cosmos and all of glorified humanity will, together with the angels, endlessly serve and praise him who sits on the throne, and the Lamb who has reconciled all things to God by his blood. For when the Son shall set us free, we shall be free indeed.”¹

PRAY: Thank the Lord for the gift of His freedom and the promise of the coming glory that He is working out in your heart. Submit to Jesus Christ more of your life today, that the world might see more of your beautiful light.

Summary of teaching outline

- **Created to Create**
- **Created to Multiply**
- **Created to Cultivate**

Discussion Guide

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking about this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What does our culture consider to be “the good life?”

What do you think it means to have “the good life?”

Read aloud Genesis 1:28

Q: Which part of Genesis 1:28 sounds like God is **against us or is trying to keep us from that 'good life' we so desperately want?**

Q: What do you think about God giving us a grand & royal calling?

God designed us with a general purpose and a specific, personal purpose.

Q: What do you think our general purpose might be?

Q: Do you know your specific purpose? Please share if you do.

Read aloud John 10:10

Q: What did Jesus say one of his purposes was?

Q: The sermon mentions creating, multiplying and cultivating. Do you see yourself being creative, multiplying blessing or cultivating towards or for others?

Read aloud Romans 6:12-14

Q: What does Paul mean by "use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right?"

Read aloud Galatians 5:13

Q: What do you think about Paul's compare/contrast **to use freedom** to satisfy **or** to serve?

MAKE ONE

God gives us autonomy, authority and ability. What will you do with it?