

2022 TCGC Men's Summit

You have a God-given identity and purpose as a man, but there are obstacles in your path. God knows about these obstacles and has given gifts to overcome them in various domains of life.

1. You have a God-given Identity and Purpose
 - a. The question is: will you accept it, will you receive it?
 - i. There are a lot of men trying to figure this out – teens and young adults, midlife professionals, even retirees, all ask: why am I here, what's my role, does anything really matter – the answer is, yes.
 - b. We are told in Scripture
 - i. **Luke 10:27** “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,*” and *‘your neighbor as yourself.’*”
 1. **This is the baseline for existence – you work out this general truth in all your particular roles and relationships and circumstances.**
 2. **But then more specifically, we're told in our theme verse for this summit:**
 - ii. **Eph 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 1. We learn two major truths here
 - a. **There is a God**
 - b. **He's intentional about you and your life**
 - c. We can also come at this from the angle of Church History – Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647) to establish the basic beliefs of the Church of England and Scotland
 - i. Question 1 - What is the chief end of man? The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. We could say Exalt Him and Enjoy Him, a fairly simple rubric based on verses like
 1. **1 Cor 6:20** For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
 2. **1 Cor 10:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God
 - d. Typical man's life, illustrated – these are the specific areas where you're supposed to work all of this out

Roles	God	Relationships
Church	Me	Family
Comm	Work	Friends

Exalt Him and Enjoy Him Everywhere

APPLICATION Question – are you clear on your identity and purpose? Do you know why you're here on earth?

2. Things that cloud the issue, or make life hard - **Five Obstacles we Face**

- a. **Distraction** – getting off mission, getting weighed down with things that aren't for you
 - i. Life is all about the allocation of your attention, affection, and assets – but we often get our allocations wrong
 - ii. **Circle of control vs influence vs awareness** (information vs intelligence)
 - 1. Where are you spending most of your time and energy?
 - 2. Are you getting fired up and angry about things you can't control, or are you stirred up with lusts and passions that you shouldn't be feeding?

b. **Self**

- i. Desires – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life
- ii. Self-Confidence - I know what I want and I know best – don't need God or anyone else telling me what to do – root of the first sin

c. **Environment** – thorns and thistles

- i. We often expect life, including following God, to be easy
- ii. **Genesis 3:17** Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

"Cursed is the ground for your sake;

In toil you shall eat of it

All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,

And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread

Till you return to the ground,

For out of it you were taken;

For dust you are,

And to dust you shall return."

- iii. Don't expect it to be easy to change or to advance
 - 1. "I tried that", but did you? Or you did you just discover it was hard? Buying a gym membership doesn't make you a stud
 - 2. Won't really change until you're sick of your current conditions
 - a. Porn application – slay that dragon on your own

d. **Enemy's tactics:** Soul, Testimony, Joy

e. **Everyone Else** – people make my life, on accident or on purpose

- i. Hymaneus, Alexander the Coppersmith, Doeg the Edomite

APPLICATION QUESTION – which of these five is the biggest problem in your life and what can you do about it?

3. Five Gifts from God

- a. **Instruction/Directions/Guidance**
 - i. God's word is full of guidance for you
 - 1. if not the specifics, at least the general tone/character
 - 2. Always comes back to motive, not micromanaging
 - ii. influence (it pushes both ways)
- b. **Forgiveness** when you fail so you move out from a position of strength – don't need others to fill your cup, God does and He loves you
- c. **Work to do** – a world to explore, roles to fill, people to help;
 - i. Work in general predates the fall
 - ii. God has fashioned you, created you, gifted you uniquely
 - 1. Born in a certain time and place in history – this is where you belong – don't romanticize somewhere else or some other time
 - 2. Born into a certain family
 - 3. Born with certain traits and abilities – you're either an introvert or an extrovert; either athletic or intellectual – prefer to work with your hands or with your head – no judgment
 - 4. Born with certain interests
 - 5. God has given you all these things so that you can live the life He has for you
 - a. **Eph 2:10** Foreordained good works that you should walk in them
 - b. **Matt 10:30** ...the very hairs of your head are numbered...
 - c. **PS 139** knit you together in your mother's womb
- d. **Role to fill** - Entrusted with leadership in home and church, a place in family and community
 - i. For the overwhelming majority of men, God's plan for your life is worship Him, make a difference at work, in your church and community, to find a wife with the same ambitions, and have children who have children – you're not going to be famous, but you can still make an impact
 - ii. Men are to be pacesetters, keepers of the culture, leaders in home and church
- e. **Help:** Divine and direct from others
 - i. **Holy Spirit** – Helper
 - 1. **John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever
 - 2. produces fruit, gives you gifts
 - 3. But, if God is your help, what is He helping you do? Your thing, your way or His things, His way?

- ii. **Wife** – (Gen 2:18) Helpmate (ezer – 22x's, 2 for Eve, 1 for Eliezer, 2 for other forms of help, 16 references to God)
 - 1. **Ps 121:1** My help *comes* from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.
- iii. **Body of Christ** – Iron Sharpens Iron
 - 1. Jesus called 12 men, His disciples, His friends – if Jesus had friends, don't you think you should?
 - 2. Paul gives thanks for people and sends his greetings at the end of letters
 - 3. 1 Cor 12 – different people have different gifts, and we need them all in our lives – we, in this room, will make each other better

APPLICATION Question – which of these five gifts do you need more of right now?

Where does all of this play out? For most of human history countries had armies that fought on land, a few had navys, relatives recently we took the air, and now we are studying space and cyber as well.

- 4. **Five domains we operate in** – focus of Men's Ministry and the whole church
 - a. Leadership – it all begins with you personally, you can't lead others where you haven't gone yourself.
 - i. Focus on the Fundamentals
 - 1. Intake & Fuel – physically, spiritually
 - a. Be in the Word
 - b. Eatwell, hydrate
 - 2. Exercise
 - 3. Sleep well/Rest/Trust
 - 4. Prayer
 - 5. Sabbath/Rest/Time away
 - b. Worship
 - c. Relationship
 - d. Discipleship
 - e. Stewardship

APPLICATION Question: Which of these five domains do you need to give attention to?

You have an identity, you have a purpose, and the lives of people around you are affected and influenced to the degree that you know it, embrace it and fill it.

Today we're going to hear more about your purpose and identity as men from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and in light of Jesus. God is going to speak – He wants to use you, He wants to help you, grow you, and use you to impact other people – it's not going to be easy, you are going to be opposed, but you are also going to be helped, by God and by other in men in this room as we advance forward together.