

Five Purposes Of God's People

Introduction. The religious world has become really invested in the idea that there's a purpose for everything. And moreover, God has a plan or a purpose for each individual life, and that every little insignificant incident in a person's life has all been predetermined by God. And this plan or purpose is often interpreted as one being able to do what they want, certain that it is all within the plan of God.

However, this is the false notion of Calvinism. Indeed, God has a plan or purpose for us. But it is a plan or purpose for all of God's elect. So if we're going to use the proper language of "plan" or "purpose," then we need to open the Bible to find it. So let's investigate the five purposes God has for His people.

I. To Be A Member Of His Family

- A. There are many metaphors in the Bible for the Christian. We are called sheep, soldiers, and servants. But none is more relatable or more accurate than the idea of family.
- B. God wants to be our spiritual Father (2 Corinthians 6:18). Jesus Christ wants to be our elder brother (Hebrews 2:12). We are called to be family (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15). And we are born into this family through a spiritual birth (John 3:3-5; 1 Peter 1:22-23).
- C. We enjoy community and communion. We share a special relationship with God and each other. And we find a place to belong.

II. To Be A Magnifier Of God

- A. "Magnify" means to "consider great." The psalmists frequently use the word to call on the worshiper to ascribe greatness to the Lord and to His name (Psalm 34:3; 40:16; 69:30; 70:4; 138:2).
- B. There is an inborn urge in each person to worship (Acts 17:22-23). If we do not worship God, we will find something else to worship. It might be a job, family, money, sports, or even ourselves! But God wants us to worship Him.
- C. God has a day designed for worship: Sunday (Acts 20:7). We join with others in the spiritual family to worship God. But we also magnify and praise His name daily in multiple ways. Paul said he wanted to magnify God in his body either in life or death (Philippians 1:18-20).

III. To Be A Model Of Christ's Character

- A. This is the personalized goal of discipleship. God wants every Christian to grow up and become like Christ (1 Peter 2:21).
- B. While learning is important to spiritual growth, maturity is measured more by lifestyle. It is a matter of someone's character and integrity.
- C. So many people who are younger are put off by the "church" concept. But Jesus fascinates them. For these individuals, the path to their heart is found among the amazingness of Jesus' words and deeds (Luke 4:36; Matthew 7:28; Luke 8:56; Mark 6:51). People are not and should not be converted to the church. But they can be converted to the perfect and astounding Son of God.

IV. To Be A Minister To Others

- A. God expects us to use our gifts, talents, and opportunities to benefit and bless others. The Bible says that we use whatever gift we have to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10; cp. Romans 12:3-8).
- B. In Bible times, every member was a minister. Although Paul called himself a minister (Romans 15:16) and Timothy a minister (1 Timothy 4:6), the idea of the preacher being the only minister in a church is not really biblical.
- C. Elton Trueblood wrote, "If you are a Christian, then you are a minister. A non-ministering Christian is a contradiction in terms." Work to be like the people in the New Testament who were commended for their service (Romans 16:1-7).

V. To Be A Messenger Of His Love

- A. God is love (1 John 4:8). And He wants us to be like Him, and to share His message of life, light, and love with the world.
- B. Because God is love, He let His Son die an agonizing death (John 3:16). The world, which is full of darkness, needs the light of truth (John 3:17-21). Christ was that light (John 1:4; 8:12; 12:35-36, 46).
- C. We are sent in search of the lost (John 4:35-36; Luke 15:4-5, 8-10). Jesus told His disciples in the limited commission to speak publicly and in the light (Matthew 10:27). Do not hide the greatest message!

Conclusion. Sir Christopher Wren was England's greatest architect of all time. There is a legend that when St. Paul's Cathedral was being built, a visitor walked on the site where three stone cutters were working. He asked the first one, "What are you doing?" He replied, "Cutting stone. I work four hours in the morning. Four hours in the afternoon." He asked the second man, "What are you doing?" The worker looked up, wiped his brow and said, "Just making a living. I earn six cents a day." When the third stone cutter was asked, "What are you doing?" He stopped and smiled. He then exclaimed, "I'm building the world's greatest cathedral for Sir Christopher Wren!"

Many are like the first two stone cutters: just working and making a living by doing their job. Then there are those like the third man. He was working for a reason. He had a goal, an aim, a noble purpose.

Make God's purpose be your passion, pursuit, and vision for discipleship. Then the epitaph for your life can read as it did for David: "... he served his own generation by the will of God ..." (Acts 13:36).

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