

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?



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YOU WERE PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

For God has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory.

Isaiah 61:3 (LB)

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PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE.

*You created everything,
and it is for your pleasure that
they exist and were created.*

REVELATION 4:11 (NLT)

The Lord takes pleasure in his people.

PSALM 149:4A (TEV)

YOU WERE PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE.

The moment you were born into the world, God was there as an unseen witness, *smiling* at your birth. He wanted you alive, and your arrival gave him great pleasure. God did not *need* to create you, but he *chose* to create you for his own enjoyment. You exist for his benefit, his glory, his purpose, and his delight.

Bringing enjoyment to God, living for his pleasure, is the first purpose of your life.

You are a child of God, and you bring pleasure to God like nothing else he has ever created. The Bible says, *Because of his love God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us his children – this was his pleasure and purpose."*

One of the greatest gifts God has given you is the ability to enjoy pleasure. He wired you with five senses and emotions so you can experience it. **He wants you to enjoy life, not just endure it. The reason you are able to enjoy pleasure is that God made you in his image.**

We often forget that God has emotions, too. He feels things very deeply. The Bible tells us that God

1. Grieves
2. Gets jealous and
3. Angry and
4. Feels compassion,
5. Pity
6. Sorrow and
7. Sympathy as well as
8. Happiness
9. Gladness, and
10. Satisfaction.
11. God loves,
12. Delights,
13. Gets pleasure,
14. Rejoices
15. enjoys and
16. even laughs!

Bringing pleasure to God is called “worship.” The Bible says *“The Lord is pleased only with those who worship him and trust his love.”* **Psalm 147:11**

Anything you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship.

Anthropologists have noted that worship is a universal urge, hard-wired by God into the very fiber of our being – an inbuilt need to connect with God. Worship is as natural as eating or breathing. If we fail to worship God, we always find a substitute, even if it ends up being ourselves. The reason God made us with this desire is that he desires worshipers! Jesus said, *“The Father seeks worshipers.”*

Worship is a lifestyle.

Worship is far more than music. Every part of a church service is an act of worship: praying, Scripture reading, singing, confession, silence, being still, listening to a sermon, taking notes, giving an offering, baptism, communion, signing a commitment card, and even greeting others worshipers.

*Actually, worship predates music. Adam worshiped in the garden of Eden, but music isn't mentioned until **Genesis 4:21** with the birth of Jubal. If worship were just music, then all who are nonmusical could never worship. Worship is far more than music.

Even worse, "worship" is often misused to refer to a particular *style* of music: "First we sang a hymn, then a *praise and worship song*." This is a common misuse of the term "worship."

*Worship has nothing to do with the style or volume or speed of a song. God loves all kinds of music because he invented it all – fast and slow, loud and soft, old and new. You probably don't like it all, but God does! If it is offered to God in spirit and truth, it is an act of worship.

Worship is not for your benefit. As a pastor, I receive notes that say, "I loved the worship today. I got a lot out of it." This is another misconception about worship. It isn't for our benefit! We worship for God's benefit. When we worship, our goal is to bring pleasure to God, not ourselves.

If you have ever said, “I didn’t get anything out of worship today,” you worshiped for the wrong reason. Worship isn’t for you. It’s for God.

In **Isaiah 29** God complains about worship that is halfhearted and hypocritical. God’s heart is not touched by tradition in worship, but by passion and commitment. The Bible says, *“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.”* **Isaiah 29:13**

Worship is not a *part of your life*; it *is your life*. Worship is not just for church services. We are told to *“worship him continually”* and to *praise him from sunrise to sunset.* In the Bible people praised God at work, at home, in battle, in jail, and even in bed! Praise should be the first activity when you open your eyes in the morning and the last activity when you close them at night. David said. *“I will thank the Lord at all times. My mouth will always praise him.”* **Psalms 34:1**

How is your worship?

The Bible says, “*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*” **Colossians 3:23**

“*Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.*” Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence.

Romans 12:1 MSG

This is what real worship is all about – *falling in love with Jesus.*

Thinking about My Purpose

POINT TO PONDER: I was planned for God’s pleasure.

VERSE TO REMEMBER: “*The Lord takes pleasure in his people.*” PSALM 149:4a (TEV)

QUESTION TO CONSIDER: What common task could I start doing as if I were doing it directly for Jesus?

MESSAGE TO HEAR: www.purposedriven.com/day 8