

What Is The Purpose of Life?

Wouldn't it be nice to have some sound advice on what we should spend our life focusing on?

'God' sounds to generic

Bad Advice: Who do you listen to?

5 Bad Advice Pictures

PICTURE: "The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."

— Eleanor Roosevelt

Traveling, job hoping, etc are our real purpose?

PICTURE: "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better."

— Robert F. Kennedy

Better for who? Hitler believed he was improving he world

PICTURE: "Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them." - Dalai Lama

PICTURE: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

What would YOU say? Write it on your bulletin.

PICTURE: We all have answers to that question. Whether you are able to articulate it with your words or not, we answer it with our life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 – We, as believers, must come to the point of admitting that the answer to that question comes from God. **The creator dictates the purpose of His creation,** not what we enjoy, not what makes us feel good, or not what those around us value.

Genesis 1:27

Colossians 1:16

When something is created, it's created for a purpose. Everything has a purpose.

Object Lesson: Aluminum Foil: Created in Switzerland in the early 1900's. First audio recording used tin foil, and wrapping foods was a first use of aluminum. Not a hat. When used out of purpose you just look silly. You look a little dim. The elevator doesn't quite reach the top floor. Not the brightest crayon in the box. Not the sharpest tool in the shed.

So many people get to the end of their lives and realize that they've wasted so much time on things of no value. You've mindlessly wandered through the motions of significanceless.

Ephesians 5:16-17

It is your responsibility to understand God's will for your life.

When you ask, "What is the purpose of life," it's extremely important to get the answer to this question correct.

Object Lesson: A knife was created for a purpose. When used outside of that purpose it can be dangerous to itself or others.

Solid Advice:

1 Kings 3:5-12

Solomon the wisest man alive, so it would be wise for us to see what He says

Solomon the wisest man alive, searched desperately for purpose/meaning (**Ecclesiastes 1:13-17**)
(Eleanor Roosevelt)

What then did Solomon find? What was his conclusion?

We, being good, southern, moral folks don't believe purpose is found in lots of things our culture idolizes. Self-Indulgence, wisdom/knowledge, hard work, sex, food, or stuff. What we believe is our purpose is found in our daily lives.

Alternative Purposes:

Affluence/Successes/Financial Freedom

Mark Cuban worth \$3 billion, works first thing from bed, wakes up multiple times in the middle of the night, works late into the evenings. Not satisfied being a billionaire. Always wants more.

Kevin O'Leary sold a company for over \$1 billion, has a net worth of over \$300 million.

- Working 24 hours a day isn't enough anymore. You have to be willing to sacrifice everything to be successful, including your personal life, your family life, maybe more. If people think it's any less, they're wrong, and they will fail. Kevin O'Leary
- You may lose your wife, you may lose your dog, your mother may hate you. None of those things matter. What matters is that you achieve success and become free. Then you can do whatever you like. Kevin O'Leary

Ecclesiastes 5:10-11

We often spend so much of our time/energy on making money to purchase more, to be 'free' only to find ourselves working harder, longer hours for more stuff and experiences.

YOU should evaluate your time, overtime, and how much you invest your time in success verses your real, God given purpose.

Religious Morality

(Isaiah 1:13-14, Amos 5:21-23, Micah 6:6-8, Matthew 23)

Strong family – Family-centric

(Priority order: Deut. 6:5, Ephesians 5:22, 25, Deut. 6:6-9)

“We can't attend church because of a tournament” When will it be “We can't attend the tournament because of church” No, church attendance does NOT equate to salvation or spiritual maturity, BUT your actions speak your priorities.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Westminster Shorter Catechism: The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Isaiah 43:7, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Romans 11:36

What then is the purpose of life? What does “glorify God and enjoy him forever” look like?

Summed up in one word: Relationships (connections, linking together)

Main Idea: There is no fulfilling purpose outside of a life connected to Christ, to His church, and to the world around us for the exclusive purpose of adding them to the Kingdom...consistently, permanently linked together.

If your life does not reflect that purpose (put on the aluminum foil hat and hold the butter knife) you're doing it wrong.

This week we will dig into these vital connections, the purpose of life, even deeper.

Pull out your cell phones. Text an invite.

“Hey, I am sitting in church and was thinking about your family. Our family-vbs is this week and I really think your crew would enjoy it. I was wondering if you all would be interested in coming with us.”