

# On Purpose, 12

## *Five Vital Signs*

Chapters 39-40; September 14, 2008

### FIVE QUESTIONS

During the course of this series we have examined five essential created purposes.



1. We're created to believe in something: God

And since true *belief* means to recognize, receive, and respond to God's authority (through Christ), we'll label this: Worship.



2. We're created to belong to something: His body

And since true *belonging* involves interacting, interrelating, and interconnecting with other believers, we'll label this: Fellowship.



3. We're created to become like something: Jesus

And since true *becoming* requires discipline, devotion, and dedication to learn from the life of Jesus, we'll label this: Discipleship.



4. We're created to bestow something: our service

And since true *bestowing* includes our time, talent, and treasure to those who need our unique abilities, we'll label this: Ministry.



5. We're created to be sent to something: the world

And since true *sending* means to spread the Gospel to our family and friends and neighbors and world, we'll call this: Mission.

Five essential created purposes summed up in five words.

One day we'll stand before God and give an account and answer to *Him* concerning these five words, these five created purposes:

1. Worship: Did you embrace and adore me above all else?
2. Fellowship: Did you build relationships with my body?
3. Discipleship: Did you cultivate my character in your life?
4. Ministry: Did you care for others in my name?
5. Mission: Did you share my grace with gentleness and respect?

If I had to answer “No,” it wouldn’t be a matter of salvation; it would be the numbing realization (before my creator) that I’d failed to acknowledge and appreciate the purpose of my creation. In that moment what would you be willing to give in order to be able to give God a resounding “Yes!” five times!

[Jesus said] The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. “Master,” he said, “you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.” His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” – *Matthew 25:20-21 NIV*

That’s what I want to hear! But, we tend to overemphasize the purposes that we feel passionate about and neglect the others.



So, in order to have five victorious answers *then*, we need to answer five vital questions *now*:

1. What will be the center of my life?

If we fail to devote ourselves to God we’ll find a substitute: career, sports, hobbies, money, even family can replace Him.



It’s not: *Will* I worship something; it’s ...

- *What* am I really devoted to?

Because something *is* the center of your life, around which the majority of your decisions and desires revolve. It’s either Jesus, or a substitute for Jesus.

2. What will be the community of my life?



Again, it’s not a matter of whether or not you will *have* an impact on others, or *be* impacted by others; the real question is ...

- *Who* am I influencing and influenced by?



We’ve been designed to grow together, not apart, and so we desperately need to interact with our fellow believers.

- The fruit of the Spirit won’t grow in isolation.

We must surround ourselves with believers who’ll encourage us, confront us, and support us; and to whom we can return the favor.

3. What will be the character of my life?



There are only two things we can take to Heaven, and Christ-like character is one of them. The question is ...

- Am I progressively developing Godly habits?

It's a simple "yes" or "no". Our habits naturally flow out of our values, attitudes, and day-to-day decisions.



- My character is revealed by the sum of my habits.

If I don't focus on becoming more and more like Christ, I'll simply become more and more like my parents, my peers, or my favorite personalities.

#### 4. What will be the contribution of my life?

True greatness is *not* measured by how many people serve us, but by how many people we serve. Therefore, the question is ...



- Are my experiences and abilities helping others?

Q: What legacy will you leave behind?

Q: Are you working to impress or inspire?

The first is self-absorbed, the second is self-sacrificing.

#### 5. What will be the communication of my life?



I said that there are only two things we can take to Heaven; Christlike character is one; the other is people. So the question is ...

- Who am I *attempting* to take with me?

Q: Or, am I content to leave everyone behind?

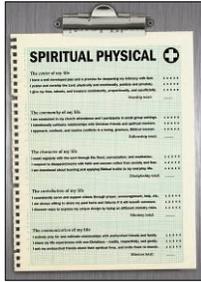
In order to answer these questions effectively we need to look inwardly. You know, God places a high value on self-evaluation. Scripture tells us to give ourselves a spiritual examination:

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. – 2 Corinthians 13:5-6 NIV

We're going to spend the rest of our time testing the five *vital* signs: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and mission.

And for that, I've prepared a spiritual physical.

I needed a physical exam (in my twenties), and I made an appointment with the family doctor, Harry Worley. But, unbeknownst to me, he'd changed his practice to gynecology. So, I'm sitting in my gynecologist's waiting room, getting the strangest looks from the other patients. And when I was done, I came out and said, "Whew! I'm not pregnant!"



Your spiritual physical should look like this. And we'll be using it to find out just how ready we are to stand before God.

After I read each sentence you'll circle an assessment number.

- A *five* means you're fit; a *one* means you are feeble.
- A *five* means I'm healthy; a *one* means I'm unhealthy.

*Worship (the center of my life)*

I have a well developed plan and a process for deepening my intimacy with God. 1 2 3 4 5  
 I praise and worship the Lord, physically and emotionally, publicly and privately. 1 2 3 4 5  
 I give my time, talents, and treasure consistently, proportionally, and sacrificially. 1 2 3 4 5  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

*Fellowship (the community of my life)*

I am consistent in my church attendance and I participate in small group settings. 1 2 3 4 5  
 I intentionally cultivate relationships with Christian friends and spiritual mentors. 1 2 3 4 5  
 I approach, confront, and resolve conflicts in a loving, gracious, Biblical manner. 1 2 3 4 5  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

*Discipleship (the character of my life)*

I meet regularly with the Lord through His Word, conversation, and meditation. 1 2 3 4 5  
 I respond to disappointments with faith and concern rather than anxiety and fear. 1 2 3 4 5  
 I am intentional about learning and applying Biblical truths to my everyday life. 1 2 3 4 5  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ministry (the contribution of my life)*

I consistently serve and support others through prayer, encouragement, help, etc. 1 2 3 4 5  
 I am always willing to share my past hurts and failures if it will benefit someone. 1 2 3 4 5  
 I discover ways to express my unique design by trying on different ministry roles. 1 2 3 4 5  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Mission (*the communication of my life*)

I actively pray for and cultivate relationships with unchurched friends and family. 1 2 3 4 5

I share my life experiences with non-Christians - readily, respectfully, and gently. 1 2 3 4 5

I ask my unchurched friends about their spiritual lives, and invite them to church. 1 2 3 4 5

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**R<sub>x</sub>** Read one chapter from "The Purpose Driven Life" per day for seven days.

Worship Chapters 8 - 14  
 Fellowship Chapters 15 - 21  
 Discipleship Chapters 22 - 28  
 Ministry Chapters 29 - 35  
 Mission Chapters 36 - 38

  
 (SIGNATURE)

LABEL                      REFILL 0 1 2 3 4 5 PRN

Now you have an analysis of your strengths and weaknesses. All that's left is your personal prescription. See the five boxes? They correspond to the five points on your "heart" monitor.

Check the box that relates to your *two lowest* categories, and read one corresponding chapter per day for fourteen days.

You'll have to get a copy of "The Purpose Driven Life" if you don't have one. And you can use your prescription as a bookmark.

We'll have different roles and goals at different stages of life, but our created purpose will never change!

And if we're going to live life "on purpose" we must understand:

1. I was created with purpose.

Q: Are you leaning into or away from your created purpose?

2. I am blessed when I'm balanced.

Q: Which of these five purposes needs some extra attention?

3. I must be willing to work on my weak areas.

Q: Are you actually going to do something about this?