

I Was Made For This: Part 3- Contribute
Ephesians 2:1-10

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online/So What About?
- B. Series
 - 1. Looking at how we best operate- most fulfilling/best life possible
 - 2. Made to love and be loved by God
 - 3. Made to know and be known by others
- C. Important b/c when things/people aren't used for what they were designed... it's sad/waste/pointless
- D. Example—SNL Sketch
 - 1. Toys weren't designed to be kept in a box in a case, collecting dust... they were designed to be played with... they have a specific purpose.
 - 2. Not using them for their designed purpose makes them BORING.

II. WE

- A. **We were made on purpose for a purpose.** What's our purpose?
 - 1. As we saw, it's simple... Love God and Love others...most fulfilling life.
 - 2. Then why are we bored? Miserable?
 - 3. Why are Xians bored and miserable?
 - 4. B/c we **KNOW** the answer but we don't actually **BELEIVE** it
 - 5. Look at how we spend our time and money to see what we actually believe our purpose is... Work? Reputation? Comfort? Safety? Entertainment?
 - 6. We all know we were made for more than that.
 - 7. **Not fulfilling our designed purpose makes us boring and often miserable.**

- B. So how do we fulfill our actual purpose of Love?
 - 1. **What were we made to do?**
 - 2. **Not a Xian-** Look at the kind of life Jesus actually offers
 - 3. **Xian-** See why you were saved/remade/transformed
 - 4. **HINT---** It's not to just sit in Bible studies with each other and study and listen
 - 5. It's not to just come once a week and sing songs and listen to someone teach more bible studies.
- C. Start at the beginning... What did God do to remake us and then why did he do it?
- D. **Our purpose is bigger than ourselves.**

III. GOD (Ephesians 2:1-10)

- A. Paul Background
 - 1. Anything but boring
 - 2. Ephesians 62 AD sitting in prison.
 - 3. This section- shows the whole transformation process and its intended result... our purpose.
- B. Quick Running Commentary until V. 10

C. V. 1

- 1. **"Dead"**- Nothing to do with how you live... but your spiritual condition.
- 2. Dead to God... separated from a true relationship with him.
- 3. Then Paul elaborates what that life is like...

D. V. 2-3

- 1. **"Gratifying the cravings of our flesh"...**
 - a. None of us would ever call it that... Paul has a way of cutting to the chase.
 - b. **A lifestyle of self-focus**
 - c. Living for your pleasure, comfort, image.
 - d. Thoughts are about you what you want/need
 - e. Others are tools or obstacles to you getting what you want.

f. **Last argument...** about you not getting what you want right?

2. Our condition- "deserving wrath."
 - a. Nothing about us that would make God want us/give us anything.
 - b. Nothing we could offer to him to make him happy

E. V. 4

1. "BUT" (best word in the Bible)
2. B/c of the great stuff we did/how pretty-talented-spiritual-religious we were/ how much money we had/ how respected we are by our neighbors and co-workers???
 - a. Nothing about us
3. "B/c of HIS great love with which he loved us."
4. "RICH in mercy"- Not getting what you deserve.

F. V. 5

1. "Made us alive"... gave us a new life
2. If we let Him... Jesus gives us his perfect life in exchange for our former life of separation and death.

G. V. 6-7

1. God offers to transform us... save us from the life of death... to give us a new identity as a child of God... just so he can show kindness to us.
2. How do we get this new life?

H. V. 8-9 (memorizer)

1. Can't do anything to earn it... don't deserve it
2. It's a gift...
3. Received through faith... trusting that Jesus died and rose again to forgive and give a new life.
4. God doesn't want anything from you... he wants something for you.
5. For you to know what you were made for and to do what you were made to do...

I. V. 10

1. "Handiwork"- Greek Poiema (Poy-ee-ma)
2. Poem/Story/masterpiece. –Let that sink in for a minute
3. "Created (transformed) in Christ Jesus"--- New Life--- Fulfilling true purpose
4. The point of all of this... God chose to make a way to transform our self-seeking, pointless, spiritually dead, deserving righteous wrath lives... to lives defined by his love and grace... so that we could have an eternal relationship with him and live our lives with purpose and meaning... operating the way we were originally designed.
5. Doing what we were made to do
6. God has a specific purpose for each of our lives---
 - a. 1st- To accept and trust his love,
 - b. Then to love those he created
 - c. By connecting our lives together and loving each other through His love.

7. We were made to embody God's love.

8. "To do good works"--- To walk in them--- part of who you are--- consistent, daily lifestyle
9. "That God prepared in advance for us to do"--- we don't have to make them up or force them--- God has them ready for us... we just need to show up and act.
10. They are God's acts of love done in and through his children.
11. He has already given us everything we need to do it...
 - a. **Like a planted garden and you just pick the fruit**
 - b. **Like a frozen pot pie you just get to heat it and eat it and enjoy it.**

IV. YOU

- A. Some people think Xianity is... getting saved and then retreating to a museum in a nice, safe, glass case with other pieces of God's collection...
 - 1. Only interacting with those in your case, talking about how great it is to be in the museum and how bad everything outside the museum is...
 - 2. Some people treat their new life like a new truck... designed for work but instead "Don't scratch the bed man!"
 - 3. Too many of God's masterpieces are trying to stay scratch-free-hammers or fingerprint-free-violins...
 - 4. **But remember... Our purpose is bigger than ourselves.**
 - 5. It's time to fulfill the purpose of your design... make a difference.
- B. **Not yet Xian**- this is the kind of life Jesus offers you... one of purpose/satisfaction/and new challenges and adventures.
 - 1. It's your choice... but you were made for more...
 - 2. Trust him and allow him to transform you and watch what happens
- C. **Xian**- Contribute to God's mission.
 - 1. Don't sit on the sidelines...
 - 2. **Ask yourself...**
 - a. **What can I do?**
 - b. **What do I have?**
 - 3. Then use what God has given you to make a difference.
 - 4. We have designed opportunities for you to do just that... (**Contribute graphic**).
 - 5. We don't want something from you... we want something for you... for you to fulfill your original purpose (to do what you were made to do) and contribute to something bigger than just you...

- D. **Two opportunities to contribute...**
 - 1. **Join a team**
 - 2. **Give a percentage of you money**
- E. **Join a service team at Crosscreek**
 - 1. Not to plug holes so we can have a church service.
 - 2. So that you have a consistent opportunity to embody God's love for others.
 - 3. Kids/Music/Tech/Greeting/Hospitality/Cleaning
 - 4. Embodying God's love to those who come here to discover his love.
- F. **Give a percentage of your money to what Crosscreek is doing**
 - 1. Not b/c I need a new yacht
 - 2. But so what you have been given can be used for more than just you.
 - 3. Teaches us to trust the Giver and not the gift... so that we can be generous in every area of our lives.
 - 4. The freedom of discovering your money isn't for you.... It's a tool to show others the love of God.
 - 5. Why percentage?
 - a. If you decide beforehand how much of each dollar is going to be given away then you actually do it.
- G. **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ALREADY DO...**
- H. These opportunities are designed not to stop here but to flow into every part of your life.
 - 1. Practice for becoming your lifestyle.
 - 2. #forSalem
 - 3. At home/work/school

V. WE

- A. If you left this world tomorrow what would your legacy be?
 - 1. Full Bank account?
 - 2. Full phone with pictures of stuff you did?
 - 3. Full Credit Card?

- B. Or changed--- Full lives?
 - 1. "My life is better b/c they embodied God's love to me."
 - 2. "I'm eternally changed b/c of how they served me when I was in Kids ministry."
 - 3. "My entire family has been transformed b/c they used their money to help get the message of Jesus out to me."

- C. First option is easy... but empty

- D. The other is harder/sacrificial and eternally fulfilling.

- E. A full life is the result of fulfilled purpose. (This can be quote for FB)**

- F. Do what you were made to do ... contribute to God's mission.**