

The Good Life

Part Four: On Purpose

Colossians 3:1-17

### Summary

Often, our lives are the result of just allowing life to happen to us. Sometimes we like where we end up and more often than not we don't. But what if there's a better way? What if we knew what our true purpose was and purposely lived out our lives to fulfill it? We can... the Good Life is lived on purpose for a purpose.

**INTRO** Why did you get up this morning? (Dog barfed/kids/pee/to watch this episode)... but seriously...

Why do you do what you do? Work, family, entertainment...

We just kind of do it right? Things happen and we respond.. And we end up wherever we end up.

We need money so we get a job...

We need a distraction from the job so we go on vacation/entertainment... but those cost money so we have to go back to work and start the cycle over again...

We don't want to do the cycle on our own so we find some people to go through it with... but then we kind of just let those relationships take their course and they become a cycle of their own.

I know this is an overgeneralization, sure some of you are driven and goal oriented, but this is true for a lot of the areas of our lives isn't it?

Whether it's our jobs, school, friends, families...

**When we don't choose our life on purpose we choose a life without purpose.**

Whatever it is, we often don't really know WHY we do what we do.

We just kind of end up where we end up... look around one day and say, "This isn't what I wanted."

We want Good Life... All have our own definition... Try to get it different ways. Don't work.

What we've found in this series... **Good Life: Experiencing the freedom of being fully loved and accepted by God**

It's a life that's completely different from what we've experienced before... well at least it can be...

But we often miss it b/c we just let life happen and don't know what our purpose is...

**The Good Life is lived on purpose for a purpose.**

**GOD:** Paul. Coming in at end of series...

**V. 1-3** *Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God*

A lot there... but quick review...

Born slaves to sinful nature/selfishness... the answer isn't a religion or list of rules to follow... Answer is Jesus... accepting his free offer of forgiveness and when we accept it he frees us and gives us a new nature/identity...

And now Paul tells us with this new identity comes a new way to see our lives...

**A new identity creates a new perspective of the world and our place in it.**

See/Think about life radically different...

Caterpillar/butterfly- same entity but completely transformed in identity and view of the world.

A person with a new identity in Jesus sets their focus on the "Realities/Things of Heaven"- Who Jesus is and what he is about... John 3:16? / Beatitudes? / Prodigal Son?

Old self focused on "**Things of earth**"- Everything we use to try to achieve the Good Life/Things we try to get or take in order to satisfy what can't be satisfied... money, success, sex, power/politics, religion.

This new identity is "**Hidden w/ Christ**"- Not fully revealed but Secure/Safe

Nobody and nothing can take away the new identity Jesus gives

B/c it is all based/rooted in/sustained by him... not us.

It can't be taken away but it can be ignored...

**V. 5a** *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.*

The reason our old life was ultimately purposeless is bc we were the purpose of our lives...

Every decision made on what we wanted, "needed," "deserved" often at the expense of others.

Paul- not you anymore

The fastest way to a horrible life is to make your life about you. So kill that old nature.

**The purpose of the Good Life is not us.**

Paul gives examples of what those things are and then says...

**V. 10-11** *Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.*

JF's Identity is not nationality (made up lines on a map), not ethnicity (made up differences- all from same source), political party, social status, not even gender...

### **Our true identity is found in Jesus.**

**V. 12** *Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience*

### **A new identity creates a new purpose**... Love- opposite of selfishness

Clothe yourselves- put it on... your real identity-

Already provided for us... fruit of HS... Jesus says "here try this on... oohh you look good in that..."

Would you rather be Clark Kent or Superman?

Clark Kent's (old identity) purpose write for newspaper/hide in shadows, try to get a date with Lois lane.

But true identity- Superman- purpose save/protect/serve...

Your old identity gave you the purpose of serving only yourself...

Put on uniform of your new identity... tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...

Paul- Take off Clark Kent and wear that cape and tights proudly.

Goes on and gives examples of what that looks like but then gets to the main idea...

We have a purpose to fulfill...

**V. 17** *And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.*

### **A new identity creates a new purpose**

Tools: I was metal and wood now... I'm a Hammer- I hammer nails... I'm a Screw Driver- I drive screws

- **I'm a Jesus Follower**- I was living for my selfishness now I represent Jesus to the world.

### **The purpose of our new identity is to purposely identify Jesus to the world.**

Don't have to TRY to be representative... you ARE representative...

It's who you are... your identity is based on Jesus... therefore when people see who you are, interact with who you are, they are seeing what Jesus is like...

Not out of duty, fear, guilt... out of thankfulness... You've been freed... you can't help but want to free others.

**Harriet Tubman.**

**We are all invited to a new life full of new purpose.**

**YOU:**

So... Who are you? Why do you do what you do?

In order to truly experience the Good Life we have to be able to answer the question of identity and purpose.

Who are you? Job? Success? Family? Political leaning? Failures? What do you base your identity on?

Has that been working? Is this the Good Life you were hoping for? Or do you have the sense that there's something more... something better... something truly GOOD?

You are invited to accept the invitation of the One who created you on purpose for a purpose.

**Offer to Accept.** *Jesus I want to follow you. I'm sorry for the hurt I caused, and I accept your forgiveness. Make me like you.*

**JF-**

**The purpose of your identity is to purposely identify Jesus to the world.**

Your purpose is not... to get candidates elected, give your kids everything the world offers, work 9-5 in order to afford vacations/distractions, live safe and comfortably... a good list... But not your purpose.

**Purpose-Full Questions:**

**What have I been representing?**

- The love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, selfcontrol that comes from our new identity?
- OR have you forgotten your true identity and true purpose?
- Let fears, distractions, selfishness start ruling again?
- **Be who you were saved to be**... drop that Clark Kent and soar into the sky by accepting your true identity and purpose.

When you are ready... worked through what is truly going on... ask yourself/Jesus...

**How can I purposely represent Jesus?**

- Who needs love? Who needs acceptance? That God is FOR them?
- Who needs to know that God is ready to forgive them b/c he loves them?
- Might be family member, co-worker, neighbor
- What does love look like? And then do it.

Use words. You are representing Jesus not showing how good you are.

**WE:**

The Good Life is offered to every single one of us.

You were created for more than mere survival.

You were create for more than mediocrity

You were created on purpose by the God who created the universe.

You were created to fulfill your purpose of joining him in bringing Life to the people he brings into your story.

**The Good Life is a life of eternal purpose.**

**Accept it. Enjoy it. Share it.**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How have you seen God working in your life this week?
2. What intrigued, confused, bothered, encouraged, or simply stood out to you in this week's passage and/or episode?
3. Take the time to read Matthew 5:3-10. Which of these stand out to you? How do you think living like this would help you in Jon's invitation to "purposely represent Jesus to the world?"
4. Throughout this series we have been encouraged to accept, enjoy, and share the Good Life Jesus offers. Where would you say you are in this process? What could be a possible next step for you?