

4. What is the purpose of life?

Why are you here? What is your purpose in life? I have asked this question to hundreds of people, and they have given me hundreds of different answers. Most say they do not really know. Some point to relationships, and others look to money, power, respect, and recreation. When I meet such people I simply have one question; "what happens when that is removed from your life?" Children grow up and leave, spouses die, money disappears, and golf is limited to the golf course. Some thinkers recognize this and become more depressed. Most turn to various forms of entertainment to distract them from reality. But if you do not know why you are here, you are lost. If you do not know the purpose of something, you will not be able to use it. If you think the purpose of a cup is to tell time you will be frustrated. Do you know the purpose of life? The answer to this basic question is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever (Westminster Catechism). "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31) "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17) Cups were made to hold liquid, watches were made to tell time, and you were made to glorify God. God created humanity to glorify him. You were uniquely created for this life purpose. "I will say...bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (Isaiah 43:6-7)

What is your purpose as evidenced by the way you live your life? What is it that you constantly seek after? That is your real purpose. In light of God's goodness, will you recognize that God's purpose is the best? Do you see that glorifying God is the ultimate purpose for life? Paul stated his purpose, "that I may know him and the power of his resurrection." (Philippians 3:10) If you truly lived for God, how would that affect how you live your life? Jesus gave us a very practical way of seeing how our purpose relates to our everyday lives. He said, "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:31-34)

Bible passages to read: Matthew 6:24-34; Philippians 1-4, especially chapter 3

Questions to ponder:

1. What is the purpose of your life?
2. How does your purpose affect how you live?
3. What is your purpose as evidenced by the way you live life?
4. What is the purpose of life according to the world?
5. Do you trust that God's purpose for your life is good?