

Life Experience and Your Kingdom Purpose

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10, New Living Translation)

This Sunday, we come to the final week of the SHAPE series, where each of us has been invited to explore the way that God has **uniquely** created us to serve other people. I've included our theme verse for the series from Paul's letter to the Ephesians above, as a reminder to us where this process begins.

It begins with the realization that God has made each of us in a special way - as His **masterpieces**. Like great works of art, God has designed into us features that enable us to live our lives for God's greater purposes during our time here on earth. Those features include our:

Spiritual Gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

Yes, we are all flawed and sinful people, but with the power of God at work within us, we can become the kind of people that God designed us to be in the first place. Our job is to become better aware of how God has designed us, so that we can become crystal-clear about what our Kingdom Purpose is, and then take action.

We will conclude by looking at our life **experiences**. For each of us, there are key points along the way which have helped to **shape** us. Some of those experiences were very positive, while others may have been disappointing, or even painful for various reasons. Please know that God can, and will, use all of our experiences for His ultimate good. It just might not be obvious to us at the moment how that will happen.

As we conclude this series, my hope is that you now have a much clearer sense of your Kingdom Purpose, much like seeing the piece of a puzzle come together on a table where you can finally begin to make out the larger picture. Remember, your Kingdom Purpose is not determined by your career or the way you volunteer. Rather, your Kingdom Purpose gives direction to all of the various aspects of your life. As you discover your Kingdom Purpose, you may find a sense of confirmation, that "Yes, I am already serving in the right kind of place where God wants me to be." For many, I suspect that we will take a look at our lives and feel a conviction to do something differently than before. For those of you feeling that way, I want to encourage you to trust God's leading and get out of the boat to try something new. It may or may not work, and that's ok. It's showing faith in God to try that matters.

PS - I want to especially thank those who took time to pursue this material on a deeper level by taking time to participate in and/or lead a small group on this topic. As I've mentioned before, I envision SHAPE becoming a key element for all of us in the discipleship (spiritual growth) process of our congregation.

Grace and Peace in Jesus Christ,

Pastor David Rittgers