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5 | WRITING A LIFE PURPOSE STATEMENT

Proverbs 29:18 *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint (they are exposed, naked, bare, and will perish); but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction (understands and keeps the Law of God.)*

To “cast off restraint” refers to living without discipline, without direction, or moral boundaries. When people lack God’s vision (a revelation of God’s Law), they often end up in self-destructive behaviors. Without God’s guidance, people follow their own desires, which leads to chaos. Notice the condition of Israel between the Judges and the Monarchy: Judges 17:6 *In those days Israel had no king (NO VISION); everyone did as they saw fit.*

THE RESULT OF LIVING WITHOUT PURPOSE...

Not having an understanding of who we are in God’s Kingdom, affects every area of our life. Note the seven characteristics of people who do not know their God-given purpose...

1. **People without purpose are not good managers of their responsibility of time.**
 - Our life, our time on earth is a gift from our Creator and we are responsible for how we spend it. Romans 14:12 *So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.* (Matthew 12:36, 25:14-30; 2 Corinthians 5:10; and more)
 - Ephesians 5:15-16 *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*
 - You cannot overestimate the unimportance of practically everything! John Maxwell
 - Create some time everyday day to do the important thing; something which has eternal consequences and fruit.
2. **Without purpose we possess a losing attitude.**
 - Numbers 13:31-33 *But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.*
 - By understanding of how we fit into God’s purposes life mission, our perspective on victory is aligned with God’s Word: “Don’t tell God how big the enemy is—tell the enemy how big our God is!”

3. **Without a God-given purpose people do not grow as they could.**
 - An exhortation for growth from 1 Timothy 4:13-16 *...Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*
 - People have an abundance of opportunities to learn, with successful role models everywhere, but some choose not to try. There is an inexhaustible amount of information available for anyone wanting to become an expert in anything!
4. **People without purpose have no “game plan” for their life.**
 - The average man does not know what to do with this life, yet wants another one which will last forever! Anatole France
 - Luke 14:28-30 *Suppose one of you wants to build a tower...*
 - Isaiah 32:8 *But the noble make noble plans, and by noble deeds they stand.*
5. **People without purpose are unwilling (or afraid) to change.**
 - People will cling to an unsatisfactory way of life rather than change in order to get something better for fear of getting something worse. Eric Hoffer
 - Proverbs 1:32 *For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them.*
 - Change IS part of God’s plan! Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* (Romans 12:1-2)
6. **Without purpose we fail in relationships because of a limited vision beyond our own survival.**
 - People with purpose invest in others Proverbs 11:25 *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*
 - It is well to remember that the entire population of the planet, with one exception, is composed of others. J.A. Holmes
 - Jesus’ very last command to us was to go and make disciples of all nations... (Matthew 28:18-20)
7. **People without purpose do not pay the price for success.**
 - Following Christ requires personal sacrifice and commitment for a higher purpose. Matthew 16:24 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”* (Luke 9:23)
 - Here’s how you know you’re on the road to success: it’s uphill all the way! Paul Harvey
 - There’s no success without sacrifice. If I succeed without sacrifice, then it is because someone who went before me made the sacrifice. If I sacrifice and don’t see success, then someone who follows will reap from my sacrifice. Dr. Jack Hyles

CREATING A LIVING PURPOSE STATEMENT

If you can't find your purpose, identify your passion, it will lead you to your purpose.



1. A few Scriptures...
 - We were created in the image of God with a great purpose to fulfill. (Genesis 1:26-28)
 - We are “wonderfully made” and we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ to do good works.” (Psalms 139:13-18; Ephesians 2:10)
 - Proverbs 20:5 *The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.*
 - Habakkuk 2:2 *Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that whoever reads it may run with it.*
2. **Creating a purpose or mission statement doesn’t come easily for some.** We’ve never asked deep, reflective questions about ourselves. Many struggle because they’re unsure of their identity, afraid of making the wrong choices, or influenced by outside pressures. Past setbacks, trauma, and self-doubt can also make it hard to define what truly matters. But once you push past these barriers, you can create a Biblical mission statement that’s both meaningful and motivating.
 - Identify the “self-talk” that goes on in you when you are facing a challenge: “I’m not..., I could never...” Where did those insecurities begin? How do you think you can master that tendency? (Romans 12:21 certainly gives an answer)
3. **One way to create your purpose statement is to break it down into smaller steps.** Rather than trying to define a single statement for your entire life, start by writing a purpose statement for each of your roles. Use the handout titled Defining Your Roles to guide you through the process.
4. **The next step is to transfer the information about yourself to the form** entitled Putting it all Together. This includes the results of your top Motivational Gifts and your Personality Style Assessment. You can also record this information in this lesson.
5. **Then take what you've gathered and, through prayer, begin drafting your purpose statement.** Remember, this is a living document—it will evolve and refine over time.

LET’S BEGIN (Habakkuk 2:2)

1. Write down your 2 or 3 highest **spiritual gifts**:
2. Write down your **personal style of ministry**:

3. Write down the result from the **16 Personalities**:
4. **Who has God created me to be?**
 - This is defined through your passions, spiritual gifts, personality style.
 - What are my strongest qualities, my strengths?
5. **What do I want to be?**
 - What character qualities do I admire in others?
 - What are the areas in your life you want to develop?
6. **What do I want to do?**
 - These are the significant contributions you want to make in your life, the world and the Kingdom of God. It defines the legacy you want to leave.
 - What significant thing(s) do I deeply enjoy doing?
7. **What do you see as a common thread of qualities?**
8. **Using the information above, write down a statement** (2 or 3 sentences) **that explains who you are.**

9. **Now write a short paragraph that describes what you believe God is calling you to BE and DO?**
- You will need to write it and rewrite it several times. Make it SPECIFIC and make it BIGGER than your abilities. Remember it is God who created you with a purpose that only He is able to perform.
10. **By God's grace and in the power of His Spirit, where do you see yourself in 10 years?**
- Set realistic, achievable goals and take action! Like plants in a garden, our efforts will gradually bear fruit. Galatians 6:9 *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*
11. **Is there anyone who truly holds you accountable?**
12. **Where at Christian Life Center can you start using your spiritual gifts?**

As you begin to step into God's purpose for your life, remember that challenges, obstacles, and moments of failure or discouragement are part of the journey. Rise up and keep moving forward in the direction God has set for you! Trust that as you walk with Him, He will continue to reveal His great purpose and has promised to guide you every step of the way. This is both the most challenging and the most rewarding endeavor of our lives. For some it may mean life or death, and where they will spend Eternity. Not only do we get to live out the life He designed for us, but we also expand His Kingdom on earth and receive the eternal reward for our faithfulness as we enter into His presence.



*...His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant;
you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.
Enter into the joy of your Lord.'...*

Matthew 25:14-30

EXAMPLES OF MISSION STATEMENTS

Amazon | *To be Earth's most customer-centric company, where customers can find and discover anything they might want to buy online.*

Apple | *To create the best products on earth, and to leave the world better than we found it.*

California Baptist University | *To help students understand and engage their purpose through a Christ-centered education.*

Coca-Cola | *To refresh the world in mind, body, and spirit, and inspire moments of optimism and happiness through our brands and actions.*

Foursquare Missions International | *On mission to make disciples of all nations.*

Google | *To organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful.*

Humanist Manifesto(s) | *To replace the old religious and metaphysical beliefs with a scientific approach to life and a commitment to social justice, individual freedoms, and the promotion of human welfare.*

Jon and Wendy Caprio | *Serving as bridgebuilders between the French and refugee communities, we foster connection through practical acts of compassion, revealing to each person that they are uniquely created by God for a meaningful purpose.*

Mahatma Gandhi | *Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:*
I shall not fear anyone on Earth.
I shall fear only God.
I shall not bear ill will toward anyone.
I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.
I shall conquer untruth by truth.
And in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering.

Microsoft | *To empower every person to achieve more.*

Red Cross | *The International Federation of Red Cross aims to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity.*

RestoringTouch | *Touching our world through practical acts of God's love.*

Tesla | *To create the most compelling car company of the 21st century by driving the world's transition to electric vehicles.*

TikTok | *To inspire creativity and bring joy.*

Wikipedia | *To benefit readers by presenting information on all branches of knowledge.*

