

Changing the Way You Think

Church and Culture

Purpose (Part 2): *When Purpose Gives Way to Happiness*

Identity * Purpose * Success * Beauty * Love * Hope

Recap of Purpose (Part1)

Purpose: the reason for which something or someone exists...

Proverbs 16:9 We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

The Anxiety of Ambition

- Invigorating
- Inspiring
- Confusing
- Overwhelming
- Paralyzing



“What do I want to do with my life?”

- **Making Plans Under the Umbrella of God’s Will & Purpose**
- **Remaining & Continuing Where God Has You**
- **Gamaliel’s Rule: Be Careful That You Are Not Fighting Against God**

My Purpose

“What is the reason I exist?”

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty (*purpose*) of all mankind.

But this can seem so confusing...It can feel so counterintuitive

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

Eat your food with joy, and drink your wine with a happy heart, for God approves of this! Wear fine clothes, with a splash of cologne! Live happily with the woman you love through all the meaningless days of life that God has given you under the sun. The wife God gives you is your reward for all your earthly toil. Whatever you do, do well. For when you go to the grave, there will be no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom.

- **Pleasure**
- **Material Possessions**
- **Education**
- **Career**

Ecclesiastes 2:17

So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

So we naturally conclude that there must be something else or someone else out there that I'm missing...
Something or someone else that is the key to my happiness!

Beware When the Benefit is More Important Than the Goal

What Happens When my Happiness is more important than my Purpose?

- Life Becomes and Endless, meaningless, Brief, Pursuit...like "Chasing after the Wind"
 - You Never Get There
 - You Never Get Enough
 - And Even If You Think You Have Arrive
 - You Have to Find A Way to Protect It, to Sustain It, To Horde It
 - This is the Doorway to Anxiety and Fear
 - Or Deception and Distraction

Deuteronomy 6:10-13

"The Lord your God will soon bring you into the land he swore to give you when he made a vow to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is a land with large, prosperous cities that you did not build. The houses will be richly stocked with goods you did not produce. You will draw water from cisterns you did not dig, and you will eat from vineyards and olive trees you did not plant. When you have eaten your fill in this land, **be careful not to forget the Lord**, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. **You must fear the Lord your God and serve him.**

When You Are Facing Fear, Anxiety, Stress, Frustration...

When You Are Depressed, Hopeless, Angry...

When You Are Numb, Unmotivated, Bored...

Ask yourself the Questions:

Where is my desire and my energy focused right now?

- In the benefits or the goal of life?
- In the pursuit of my happiness, or in the pursuit of His purpose?

Next Week...

The Ultimate Life Hack

Matthew 11:28-30

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

