

3 Fold Purpose of Man

Lesson Two Student

Introduction

From generation to generation mankind has pondered the age-old question: WHY AM I HERE? Each of us, at an individual level has asked ourselves: "what is my *purpose* in this life that I have been given?"

Purpose - the intention/reason for something; the attaining of an end.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, we know that God has created us. As the creator, he has a specific purpose for everything he creates including you and me. As a result, the only way to true happiness in life is to fulfill our God given purpose. For all mankind, no matter what any of us do, whether it is daily living, ministry, education, volunteering... Everything we do as God's creation must fall into his 3-Fold purpose of man.

Lesson Two - To Be Like God

1) **Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his _____.

- a. As God's creation, we are called according to His purpose.
 - i. His purpose is for us to know Him.
 - ii. His purpose is for us to be like Him.
 - iii. It is a _____.
 - iv. Everything that happens in our lives is meant to work for our good. It is meant to lead us to fulfill the 3-Fold purpose of man.

b. **Romans 8:29**

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- i. God had a purpose for your life before you were even thought of.
- ii. Predestinate-to determine a destiny before creation
- iii. Our _____ is to be formed and shaped into the image of Jesus. In other words, to be more like Him!



- c. No matter what each of us is called to be specifically: usher, preacher, Sunday school teacher, an administrator ... There is no other reason for our existence than to be like Him.
- 2) To be like Jesus, we must _____ His character.
- a. **Galatians 5:22-23**
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
 - i. No matter what happens to us in our lives, we must exhibit these characteristics at all times.
 - ii. It can only be done through the _____ living inside of us.
 - iii. Certain things happen in our lives _____, to see if we are truly like Him.
 - iv. **2 Corinthians 12:7**
And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure
 - v. Paul was given a thorn in his flesh to test his spirit to see if he had the character of God.
 - b. **Isaiah 48:10**
Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.
 - i. God will refine our character through life's trials, to make us more like Him.
 - ii. Will you still praise God and exhibit His character through difficult times?
 - iii. Will you still trust God and strive to be like Him, even when it seems like He is not your friend?
 - iv. Job said "though He _____ me, yet will I trust Him"
 - v. Job understood who God is, and therefore he trusted God's character.
- 3) We will not always understand what God is doing in our lives, so to be like Him, we must live by _____.
- a. **Romans 1:17**
For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.
 - b. It takes faith to see the righteousness of God revealed in our lives
 - i. Have you learned to _____ Him?
 - ii. Do you believe in His character even when He hasn't answered your prayer?
 - iii. Do you trust the spiritual leaders He has placed in your life?



- 4) To be like Him, we must have His unconditional love.
- a. Jesus had unconditional love for us _____.
 - i. **Luke 23:34**
Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots
 - ii. Even when His own creation was hurting Him, Jesus forgave them out of love.
 - iii. Jesus gave Himself for us out of love. - b. The Bible commands us to show God's loving character.
 - i. **Matthew 5:44**
But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you
 - ii. Our love for others must be _____.
 - iii. It is easy to love when everything is going well.
 - c. Our love for God must be unconditional even when it seems like He is neglecting us and not delivering us from our pain. Remember Romans 8:28.
- 5) We must desire to be like Him more than anything else in this world.
- a. **Psalms 42:1**
As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
 - b. We have to want to be like Jesus more than we want:

_____.
 - c. Our hunger to be like Jesus must transcend the feeling of embarrassment of being labeled too conservative.
 - i. **II Timothy 1:12**
For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.
 - ii. Knowing Jesus gives us confidence to be like Him without shame
 - d. We have to want to be like Him more than we want to keep our fleshly nature.
- 6) To be like Jesus, we must become a _____.
- a. **Matthew 16:24**
Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
 - i. To be like Him, we must deny ourselves.
 - ii. We must be obedient and _____ Him.
 - b. We must embrace servant hood in all forms.



- i. We must realize that we are all God's creation and we must serve and honor God's creation in every form.
 - ii. **Matthew 25:40**
The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'
 - iii. To be like Jesus we have to help the less fortunate among us, and be _____ to them.
 - iv. **Mark 9:35**
And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.
 - v. To be like Jesus we must humble ourselves and be the greatest servant.
 - c. We must give of ourselves, putting others first, knowing that God will take care of us.
- 7) To be like Jesus, we cannot yearn for _____ from man.
- a. **Matthew 6:33**
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
 - i. We must put the kingdom of God first.
 - ii. We cannot place value on the things of this world: money, fame, fortune...
 - iii. We seek God first knowing He will take care of our needs.
 - b. Seek the approval of God not the approval of man.
 - i. Some close friends may not agree with our quest to be like Jesus.
 - ii. We will have to sacrifice and leave friends behind.
 - iii. We will not be _____ by man's standards when choosing to be like Jesus, in fact, people will criticize us, just as they did Jesus.
- 8) To be like Jesus is the _____! That is our purpose in life; to be like Him!

