**Edward Church *“What Is Your Purpose in Life?”* -pt3 Oct 17, 2017**

**What Are 5 Key Questions about Your Purpose?**

**Q:** ***"Do I have only one purpose in life?"***

**A:** **No**. You have **several purposes**, depending on the **different major roles** you **fill** in your **life**.

* **Growing** in **Christlike** character *"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son"* -**Romans 8:29**
* **Being** the **best** we can be, which in turn **glorifies God**.*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"* -**Col 3:23**

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**Q:** ***"Can my purposes change?"***

**A:** **Yes**, some **purposes** will **change**, depending on the **major changes** in your **life**.

For example, a **former student** now has a **wife** and **children**. Therefore, while some of the **purposes** he had as a student **still** remain, **others** will **no longer** be **applicable**. Now, his **major** life **purposes** will be:

* **Continuing** to grow in Christlike character*"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you"* -**John 13:15**
* **Sacrificially** loving his **wife** as **Christ** loved the **church** *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"* -**Eph 5:25**
* **Teaching** his **children** through his **actions** *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up"* **-Deut 6:5-7**

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**Q:** ***"Are purposes and goals the same?"***

**A:** **No**. **Purposes** are **different** from **goals**; however, they are **related**. Your **purposes** answer the **question**, *"Why am I here on earth?"* Your **goals** answer the **question**, *"What am I to do here on earth?"* The **relationship** between the **two** is that the **goals** you **set** should work together to **help** you reach your purposes.

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**Q:** ***"What is God's highest purpose for my life?"***

**A:** **God's** highest **purpose** for you is for your life to glorify Him. One of the **primary** ways to **accomplish** this is to be *conformed* to the character of Christ. The other **purposes** He has for you will **flow** out of this.

* The **NT Gk** word for **conform** is *susxematizo*, which means to become fashioned in "mind and character to another's pattern." *"As obedient children, do not* ***conform*** *to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'"* -**1 Peter 1:14-16**
* The **NT Gk** word for **transformed** is *metamorphoo*, which means *"to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure."* *"Do not* ***conform*** *any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is*—*his good, pleasing and perfect will"* -**Romans 12:2**

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**Q: *"What should my highest purpose be?"***

**A:** Your **Highest Purpose**—and that of **All Creation**—is to **Bring Glory** to God.

*"Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"* -**1 Corinthians 10:31**

* When you **accurately** reflect the **character** of Christ, you **give** God **glory**—you **reflect** His **worth**! *"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory"* -**Eph 1:11-12**

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Hitler's catastrophic crusade against the Jews—to annihilate every man, woman, and child—was applauded... even by some "men of the cloth."

In 1934 a Catholic priest described Hitler as "the tool of God, called upon to overcome Judaism." The praise of yet another German religious leader elevated Hitler to an otherworldly scale. "Christ has come to us through the person of Adolf Hitler."

And while Hitler sought death for the Jews, the apostle Paul sought to bring them life, *eternal life.* His was a labor of love, and he anguished over their repeated rejection of the gospel message....

*"I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel."* -**Romans 9:2-4**