Edward Church

"What Is Your Purpose in Life?" -pt3 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

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**

Q: "Are <u>purposes</u> and <u>goals</u> 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.

Q: "What is <u>God's highest purpose</u> 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

Q: "What should my <u>highest purpose</u> 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