



Women Building Godly Lives

*The wisest of women builds her own house,
but folly with her own hands tears it down. Prov. 14:1*

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Purpose of Life

by Elizabeth Turner Beall

“Let Us make man in Our image,” God said, then followed that up by giving mankind dominion over every non-human living thing in the sea, on the land, and in the air, and followed that up with the command to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:26-28).

Why would the all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere-present God/Deity create this amazing and beautiful world, and then create mankind to fill it up with other humans, knowing that most of those humans would not choose to show Him love or follow Him in the way He desired (Matthew 7:13-14)? God created mankind to desire to worship something or someone, and with the ability to make choices based on the ability to reason and understand. God loved/loves His creation—mankind—and that love is so great that He is willing to let us/mankind choose which path to follow.

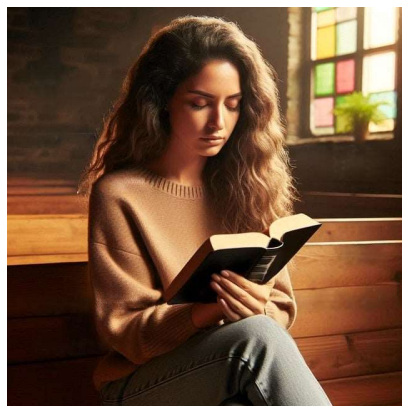
Yes, He *wants* all of mankind to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), but He loves us enough to allow us to make our own choices. He did not make us with strings to be puppets pulled in ways that make us conform to His will. Neither did He make us to be pushed around like men on a chessboard. He loves us enough to allow us to love Him back, or not; to seek out the truth in the inspired (God-breathed) word (2 Timothy 3:16), or not; and to learn what He wants us to do. Just because He wants everyone to be saved, and just because He offered that salvation to us “because of His purpose and grace. . .before the ages began” (1 Timothy 1:9), does not mean that everyone will be saved and go to Heaven when they die. We are called through the gospel (2 Thessalonians

2:14); many will hear it, but not everyone will believe it and obey it.

Thus, our purpose as human beings is to love God as our Creator and show Him that love by learning and keeping the commandments He gave us (John 14:15; 15:14); conforming our lives to Christ's life (Romans 12:1-2) via the obedience through baptism/immersion (Acts 2:38) for the forgiveness of our sins, "putting on Christ" (Galatians 3:27), and living faithful, devoted lives to God as we "walk in the light" (1 John 1:7), making sure that all we do in word or in deed is done in His name (Colossians 3:17), giving Him all the glory (1 Corinthians 10:31), so that at our life's end we can say with Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the righteous Judge will award to me on that Day (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

As Solomon concluded in his book of Ecclesiastes, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14), we look to the New Testament that confirms Solomon's conclusion. What's our purpose? How do we "fear God and keep His commandments"? By conforming our lives to Christ's life and giving God the glory for everything we have and everything we do!

"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).



What is My Purpose?

By: Amanda Stephanus

Every day questions are asked: "Does this look good on me?", "Where should we go out to eat?", "What do I need to do today?" More serious questions include "Am I satisfied with my life?", "Will You Marry Me?", "Are you okay?" However, one of the most important questions a person could ask is, "What is my purpose?"

Undeniably, most people want to be useful. Many desire to be of value or to have a purposed life. We have a purpose, we are here for a reason, and it has been revealed to us through God's word. When studying Ecclesiastes, we read of Solomon's search for the meaning or purpose of life. Unlike Solomon's searching, there is no need for us to dabble in the sinful, destructive things of this world to draw the same conclusion that Solomon did: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Our purpose does not have to be an exercise of speculation. God has given us a divine purpose to fear Him and keep His commandments. We must respect, honor, and reverence Him for who He is. God is the great I Am (Exodus 3:14); He is the Master Designer of the universe (Nehemiah 9:6); and the One worthy of all glory, honor, and praise (Revelation 4:11). When we have proper respect for our Heavenly Father, we naturally begin to fulfill the second part of our purpose: keep His commandments: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). The reverence we have for God leads us to seek Him through His word and to learn what He would have us to do. He has revealed all things needed for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), which eliminates the need for speculation over what His commandments are (Deuteronomy 29:29). Moreover, God's commands are not burdensome; therefore we know we can keep them (1 John 5:3).

We need to make sure we are students of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15) and

doers of those things which we study (James 1:22). The only way to fulfill our purpose in life is to study our Bible and allow God's Word to light our path to Heaven through obedience to God's commands (Psalm 119:105). The next time you begin to wonder why you are here, or perhaps someone asks you what their purpose in life is, you can direct them to the same conclusion Solomon reached: "Fear God and Keep His Commandments."



What Difference Does It Make?

By Wilburta Arrowood

Have you ever smiled and enjoyed watching a small child try on Mommy or Daddy's shoes and try to walk in them? They want to be just like that parent. Now imagine how God must feel when he sees us trying to imitate him. We want to be like Him.

Not only does God see us as we go through our days, but so do those around us. If we want to be like God, we make godly choices. Children see when we wear clothing that is too revealing. So do our peers. They look at us and think she is a Christian and if that is okay for her, it must be okay for me. Sisters, that is a serious matter. We should never be a stumbling block for another Christian, whether a sister or a brother.

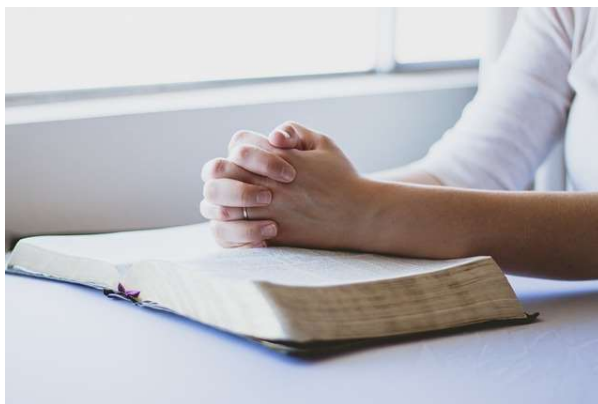
I have heard some of our men state how difficult it can be to serve the Lord's supper and keep their thoughts pure when some of the women they serve are dressed in such revealing clothing. I will grant that it is a man's responsibility to control their thoughts, but we must be accountable for our appearance as well.

I, for one, do not wish to stand before God and try to explain why it was so important to be fashionable at the expense of a brother's soul. Some of the most beautiful ensembles are the most discreet. We need to examine our motives when we choose our clothing. Do we wish to look elegant and refined, or do we purposely dress to excite the men around us? Our clothing reflects our heart condition, whether we intend it to do so or not.

When you shop with your daughters, do you monitor their choices to keep them modest? You are responsible for their spiritual well being and you are paying the bill, thus you must accept responsibility for their choices. Is that skirt too short? Is the neckline too low? It may be easier to give in to their cries of "Nobody wears that kind of thing," or "Everybody wears this. Everyone will laugh at me." As a parent, you've heard it all. Do you cave, or do you do what God expects of you as a parent?

[Romans 14:13](#) Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

I pray my sisters will think on these things and make the choices to imitate God and make him smile as he watches his children.



Questions for discussion and/or meditation:

1. How can we imitate God/Christ?
2. Discuss other topics that “make a difference.” Why?
3. Why will not everyone go to Heaven? Support your thoughts.

Ideas for Application of this topic:

1. Think of what you have accomplished just today. What are some of those things, and what helped you to accomplish them, i.e, a “To Do List.”
2. What are some larger, more long-term goals you have? How do you plan to accomplish those goals?
3. With our spiritual goal being to “Fear God and keep His commandments,” and to conform to Christ and give God the glory, what are some goals you can set to do that?

Prayer suggestions:

1. Ask God to help you put/keep God first in your life.
2. Ask God to help you achieve the goals mentioned in number 3 above.
3. Pray for the sisters in your church family, that they also will achieve their goals.

PURPOSE OF LIFE

Find the following words in the puzzle below:

COMMANDMENTS	ABOUNDING	OBEDIENCE	LIKE
INSPIRED	CONFORM	CREATOR	SOUL
RESPECT	MULTIPLY	IMITATE	FEAR
HUMANS	ACCOUNTABLE	ALLOW	GLORY
WANTS	CHOICES	ENOUGH	STAND

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O C C C B C L I E E M N W X U
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C C B M M N U U I I R R N S I
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S G K U D A F O D T L M O Z I
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