

Campus Church of Christ Jail Ministry
Series 1: Lesson 10
“Created to Become Like Christ,” Part B
from *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

Key points summary from previous lesson:

It is not about me!

- I was born *by* God’s purpose and *for* His purpose.
- God planned every person; no one was born by “accident”.
- I discover my meaning and purpose only when God is the reference point of my life.
- Living with purpose is living with peace.
- My lifetime on earth is only a moment of my lifetime in eternity.
- Life on earth is a dress rehearsal for eternity.
- My view of life determines how I will live my life.
- Life on earth is both a test and a trust.
- Life on earth is a temporary assignment.
- It is all for Him!

I was created by God for His pleasure.

My 1st purpose in life is to bring glory to God.

- Anything I do that brings glory and pleasure to God is worship.
- If I do not worship God, I will worship something else.
- Worship is a result of being in love with Jesus.
- Worship is not a part of my life; it must BE my life.
- Five ways to worship God that please Him:
 - Love Him.
 - Trust Him.
 - Obey Him.
 - Praise and thank Him.
 - Be ourselves.
- The heart of worship is surrender.
- Fear, pride, and confusion get in the way of our surrender.
- The blessings of surrender include: peace, freedom, God’s power in our life.
- God wants to be my best friend.
- I become best friends with God
 - by constant conversation, i.e. prayer.
 - by meditation on His Word.
 - by being completely honest.
 - by choosing to obey in faith.
 - by choosing to value what God values.
 - by making it my highest priority.
- I am as close to God as I choose to be.
- God wants all of me – heart, soul, mind, and strength
- God is pleased with my worship . . .
 - if it comes from my spirit; i.e. it is authentic
 - when it is done according to truth; i.e. it is accurate according to the Bible

- if it is thoughtful; i.e. I am mentally engaged
- when it is a “living sacrifice”; i.e. it costs me something
- God is real no matter how I feel.
- It is my faith, not my feelings, that pleases God.
- Trust God to keep His promises.

God made me for His family.

My 2nd purpose in life is to love God and love others, especially His family.

- Being a member of God’s family is a choice I make.
- My only access to being in God’s family is through Jesus.
- Baptism is not optional.
- Being a member of God’s family includes great benefits.
- Life without love is worthless.
- Love will last forever.
- The best expression of love is time.
- The best time to love is now.
- I’m called to belong, not just believe.
- I need others and they need me.
- God wants us to learn to live in harmony and unity with all of His family while on earth in preparation for living that way in heaven.
- Having loving relationships requires commitment.
- Conflicts are a natural part of relationships.
- When conflicts are handled correctly, we grow closer to each other.
- Reconciliation focuses on the relationship while resolution focuses on the problem.
- We must do everything in our power to be peacemakers.
- Nothing on earth is more valuable to God than His Church.

God made me to become like Christ

My 3rd purpose in life is to grow more and more like Jesus.

- We were created to look and become like Jesus
- God’s ultimate goal for us is not to be comfortable, but to grow up (by developing a Christ-like character.)
- God doesn’t want us to become *a god*, but He does want us to take on His values, His attitudes and His character, *becoming Godly*
- Only the Holy Spirit has the power to make the changes He wants to see in our life.
- To grow up spiritually we must change the way we think in order to change the way that we act. (We have a part and God has a part in changing the way that we act.)
- Christianity is not a religion but a lifestyle.
- Reproducing the character of Jesus in our life is a slow process that will take the rest of our life.

GOD WANTS US TO BE TRANSFORMED BY TRUTH

The _____ of God's Word transforms us.

We can grow spiritually when we replace lies we have believed previously with God's Word. We need to "eat" it daily, just as we eat our physical food, craving spiritual _____ (I Peter 2:2).

The Spirit of God uses His Word to mold us into the image of _____.

Feeding on God's word is called _____. (John 8:28) Abiding in Him means:

- A. accepting the Lord's _____.
- b. Filling our minds with His _____.
- c. _____ what we learn in our lives.

Often we rely on our *culture (friends, family, media)*, our *traditions*, our *emotions* or our *reasoning* to set our standards and make our decisions, rather than on God's Word which will never lead us astray. Can you name some specific circumstances in which you have relied on these to make a decision instead of asking, "What does the Bible (God) say I should do? Example: I used to say, "Well, everyone else is doing this," so I did it too without first asking, "What would God want me to do?"

Write **2 Timothy 3:16**.

As your teacher lists them, write down "the 5 R's" that can put God's Word into our hearts or help us assimilate it. (The Bible verses below won't list the "5 R's" but each one relates to the concept.) Take some quick notes on what each one of the "5 R's" means. Will you try to practice doing each one of these this very week?

1. I must _____ God's Word. Luke 8:18
2. I need to _____ it every day. Deuteronomy 17:19
3. _____ means to study the Bible. James 1:25

4. Filling my mind with scripture so that I know it by heart is called _____ Matthew 4 (As you read, ask, "What kind of soil is my heart made of?)
5. Just sitting and thinking about His Word is called _____ Psalm 119:27

The hardest step of all is *to apply* what the Bible says to our daily lives. What does James 1:22 say about this?

Question to consider:

What has God already told me to do that I haven't started to do yet?

Taking it Further:

A. Write down favorite encouraging Bible verses and post them where you can see them everyday and begin to memorize them!

B. Rick Warren suggests writing down an *action plan* of what you want to do and how you plan to accomplish letting the Truth of God's Word transform your life. The plan should be *personal*, (just for YOU!) *practical* (possible), and *provable* (You would be able to measure your accomplishment.) Example: I will read my Bible 30 minutes each day. (Not just "I plan to read my Bible more often.") Write your action plan down at the end of this study guide today and look at it each week to check on how you are doing!

Verse to remember:

*If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed: and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. **John 8:31-32***

Other verses to study:

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|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Proverbs 30:5 | 1 Peter 2:2 | John 13:17 |
| John 17:17 | Matthew 4:4 | Hebrews 4:12 |
| Acts 7:38 | 1 Peter 1:23 | 1 Corinthians 3:2 |
| Psalm 19:103 | | |

Focus Point: The truth of God's Word transforms us.

Prayer Focus:

Dear God, thank you for preserving the Truth of Your Word so that I can fill my mind with it and let it transform me into the image of Christ. Please give me the desire to want to change my ways to Your ways and put into practice the things I read about in my Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WE WERE MADE TO BE TRANSFORMED BY TROUBLE

We have learned that God transforms us into the image of His son by Truth. Now we will explore how He also transforms us through problems in our lives. God has a purpose behind every problem in our lives. These problems may be called trials, temptations, trespasses, and troubles.

Many people think that once they are Christians they will no longer have problems. What does 1 Peter 4:12 say about this?

God uses these times to draw us closer to Him, and our momentary troubles are achieving for us an _____ glory.

1 Corinthians 4:17

Read about a time Paul describes, in 2 Corinthians 1:9, when he felt totally powerless but put everything in God's hands. Can you remember a time when you felt this way? _____ How did you handle this? _____

The next time (and there probably will be a next time) this happens to you, what might you do differently after studying this lesson?

Write down your understanding of the meaning of Romans 8:28-29.

As we learn to respond to life as Jesus did we must remember that God's plan for our lives is always _____. Jeremiah 29:11

In our trials we should give _____, (1 Thessalonians 5:18) because God has a plan that will result in _____.

We must always refuse to _____ up. James 1:2-4 What do we learn about the hardships that we will face? _____

Focus Point:

Everything that happens in our lives is God-filtered, and He uses it for our good.

Everything that happens in our lives is permitted by God to help mold us into the image of Christ.

Verse to remember:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

Taking it further:

Study the stories of Bible characters who went through troubles that God chose not to take away. Write down their problems and then write down the outcome.

Joseph (Genesis 39:20-22)

Daniel (Daniel 6:16-23)

Paul (2 Corinthians 11:25)

Three young Hebrew men (Daniel 3:1-26)

The purposes God has for us are greater than the pain of our past. Read about the lives of some women that lived lives of sin and yet became a part of Jesus' family tree. God can use us everyone for His purposes.

Tamar (Genesis 38)

Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)

Rahab (Joshua 2)

God's plan is always good. Study what Joseph later said about the fact his own brothers sold him into slavery in Genesis 50:20.

Learn about Hezekiah and what he said about his hard times in Isaiah 38:17

Additional verses to study:

John 16:33

Psalm 34:18

Psalm 139:16

Matthew 6:10

Question to consider:

What problem in my life has caused the greatest growth in me?

Prayer Focus:

Lord, I don't ask You for trouble, but I understand that in my life, even if I follow You, I will have troubles. Help me to bear them and to grow closer to You while I suffer them. I know You have great plans for my life and that You will allow pain and heartache for my own good. Thank you for walking with me all along the way. In Your Son's name, Amen.

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References:

- ¹ **Warren, Rick.** *The Purpose Driven Life.* **Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.**
 - ² **Warren, Rick.** *The Purpose Driven Life Prayer Journal.* **Inspirio, 2002.**
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This lesson was prepared for you and presented by volunteers from Campus Church of Christ. We believe that the Bible is the holy, inspired, Word of God in which He has revealed to us Himself, His love, and His plan for us. We teach no other doctrine than that found in the Bible, and we ask that you examine all teaching from us or anyone else to be sure that it is accurate according to the Bible.

If you are seeking a church family with whom to worship and to grow in your faith, we invite you to Campus Church of Christ, 1525 Indian Trail Rd., Norcross, GA 30093. You may visit us online at www.campuschurch.org. Sunday morning worship services are at 8:30 and 11:00. We have Bible classes for all ages at 9:45. Sunday evening, we meet at 6:00 and Wednesday evening at 7:00.

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Additional Notes: