

Campus Church of Christ Jail Ministry
Series 1: Lesson 11
“Created to Become Like Christ,” Part C
from *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

Key points summary from the PDL lessons:

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 mediation 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 me 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 is about the relationship while resolution is about the problem – I need to focus on reconciliation more than resolution.
- I must do everything in my power to be a peacemaker.
- 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 become more and more like Jesus.

- I was created to look and become like Jesus
- God’s ultimate goal for me is not to be comfortable, but to grow up (by developing a Christ-like character.)
- God doesn’t want me to become *a god*, but He does want me 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 my life.
- To grow up spiritually I must change the way I think in order to change the way that I act. (I have a part and God has a part in changing the way that I act.)
- Christianity is not a religion but a lifestyle.
- Reproducing the character of Jesus in my life is a slow process that will take the rest of my life.
- The Truth of God’s Word transforms me.
- The Spirit of God uses His Word to mold me into the image of Christ.
- To be healthy spiritually I must constantly “feed” on His Word.
- Feeding on His Word is called abiding. This includes three activities:
 1. I must accept the Bible as the ultimate authority in my life.
 2. I must receive it, read it, research it, remember it and reflect on it.
 3. I must put what I learn in the Bible into practice in my life.

- God has a purpose behind every problem in my life. My problems may be:
 1. Trials, designed by God to draw me near Him.
 2. Temptations, designed by Satan to draw me away from God.
 3. Trespasses, caused by the hurtful sins of others.
 4. Troubles, usually caused by our own sins.
- Everything that happens in my life is *God-filtered*, and He uses it for my eternal good.
- Everything that happens in my life is permitted by God to help mold me into the image of Christ.
- God uses temptation to develop my character.
- Every temptation is an opportunity to do good.
- Everyone is tempted, even Jesus.
- Temptations are not all around me; they are IN me. They always start in my mind, not in my circumstances.
- God always provides a way out, but the choice is mine.
- I can overcome temptation by
 - refusing to be intimidated or shamed by it.
 - recognizing my patterns of temptation.
 - asking God to help me.
 - refocusing my attention away from the temptation.
 - having a support & accountability partner or partners.
 - resisting Satan's attempts and lies.
 - realizing that I am vulnerable.
- Spiritual maturity takes time. I must be patient and persistent.

God Uses Temptation to Grow Us Into Mature Sons and Daughters

What exactly is temptation, and what is it not? _____

Focus Point

Every temptation is an _____ to do good.

How is this possible? _____

The Fruits of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23, describe how our character should look if it looks like Jesus. List these qualities: _____

“God develops the fruit of the Spirit in our life by allowing us to experience circumstances in which we are tempted to express the exact opposite quality. Character development always involves a choice, and temptation provides that opportunity.” (1p. 202)

Satan uses a four-step process to lure us into sin. Describe what happens in each step. Refer to James 1:14-16 to help you.

Step 1, Desire: _____

Step 2, Doubt: _____

Step 3, Deception: _____

Step 4, Sin: _____

The good news is, we can overcome temptations! List seven methods we can use to overcome temptations.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What does it say about your personal temptations? _____

What makes the difference in your ability to handle them? _____

How can pride and/or shame keep you from asking God or another person for help?

Focus point

God always provides a _____, but the choice is mine.

Verse to remember: James 1:12 (NLT)

God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

Questions to consider:

What Christ-like character quality could I develop by defeating the most common temptation I face?

Who could I ask to be a spiritual partner to share with and hold me accountable and to help me defeat a persistent temptation by praying with me and for me?

Taking it Further:

Remember that every temptation is an opportunity to do good. Prepare yourself to confront temptation with a positive outcome as we have learned in this lesson. Strengthen yourself with the power of the Word of God by memorizing verses from the Bible. Choose one verse per week. Write the verse on a card or piece of paper. Several times a day look at the verse and each time try to say more and more of the verse for memory until you can say the entire verse. Keep repeating it for the entire week. The next time you are tempted, send Satan running by quoting scripture at him!

Other verses to study:

from Day 26: Growing Through Temptation

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Corinthians 2:11 | Mark 7:21-23 | James 4:1 |
| Hebrews 3:12 | John 8:44 | Hebrews 4:15 |
| 1 Peter 5:8 | Matthew 26:41 | Ephesians 6:10-18 |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:6,8 | 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8 | Ephesians 4:27 |
| Proverbs 4:26-27 | Proverbs 16:17 | Psalms 50:15 |
| Hebrews 4:15 | Hebrews 4:16 | |

from Day 27: Defeating Temptation

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|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| James 4:7 | Job 31:1 | Psalms 119:37a |
| Romans 12:21 | Hebrews 3:1 | 2 Timothy 2:8 |
| Philippians 4:8 | Proverbs 4:23 | 2 Corinthians 10:5 |

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

James 5:16

1 Corinthians 10:13

Romans 3:23

James 4:6-7a

Ephesians 6:17

Jeremiah 17:9

Proverbs 14:16

Prayer Focus:

Wonderful Father, thank you for the gift of choice. Help me to remember that temptation is always an opportunity to do the right thing. Today I choose your will for my life I need Your grace in defeating the persistent temptations in my life. Please give me the courage to share my struggle with a friend who can hold me accountable and give me support.² In Jesus precious name, Amen.

It Takes Time to Be Transformed

Verse to remember: Philippians 1:6 (NCV)

God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again.

Focus Point: There are no shortcuts to maturity.

God is interested in how _____ we grow, not how _____ we grow.

Compare the rate of growth and the strength of the weed and the oak tree.

What makes the oak tree so strong?

How can I apply this lesson to the process of my spiritual maturing?

Taking it further:

Keep a journal or a notebook in which you write down the lessons that you learn from your struggles with temptations. Also, keep a list of your prayers, and as God answers them, go back and write how God answered the prayers.

Additional verses to study:

from Day 28: It takes time

Ephesians 4:13	Colossians 3:10a	Habakkuk 2:3
2 Corinthians 3:18b	Deuteronomy 7:22	Romans 13:12
Ephesians 4:22-25	Colossians 3:7-10, 14	1 Timothy 4:15
Ecclesiastes 3:1	Psalm 102:18	2 Timothy 3:14
Hebrews 2:1	James 1:4	

Question to consider:

In what area/s of my spiritual growth do I need to be patient and persistent?

Prayer Focus:

Lord, when I get discouraged, help me to see how far I've come, not just how far I still have to go. Thank you that you will never give up on me and will complete what you have started in me.² In Jesus name, Amen.

Conclusion

There is spiritual warfare going on between God and Satan, and we are the prize. This internal war between good and evil and how we deal with it is expressed beautifully in this old Indian parable:

A great old chief once commented to a young brave, "I have two great dogs fighting within me - the black dog that is evil and the white dog that is good." Surprised, the young brave quickly asked, "Chief, which one is winning?" to which the wise old man replied, "The one that I feed the most!"

In light of the points in the lesson, explain the meaning of this parable.

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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: