

**Campus Church of Christ Jail Ministry**  
**Series 1: Lesson #8**  
**“You Were Formed for God’s Family” part C**  
**from *The Purpose Driven Life*<sup>1</sup>**

**Key Points summary from previous 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 1<sup>st</sup> purpose: 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 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose: to love God and love others.**

- 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.

## **Day 19: Cultivating Community**

What is the meaning of "fellowship"?

God's plan is for life to be all about learning how to \_\_\_\_\_. He wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ relationships and to make very \_\_\_\_\_ to maintain them.

If we are going to be prepared to go to \_\_\_\_\_, we must learn here on earth how to live in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with all of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Why is "getting along" so difficult? Why is it so easy to "fight and bicker"?

### **Verse to remember: 1 John 3:16 (GWT)**

*We understand what love is when we realize that Christ gave his life for us. That means we must give our lives for other believers.*

Nine things that I need to learn and practice to develop the kinds of relationships that God wants me to have. . .

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ by sharing my true feelings.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ about and \_\_\_\_\_ each other.
3. Support and be \_\_\_\_\_ toward one another.
4. Extend \_\_\_\_\_ and mercy toward one another.
5. Be \_\_\_\_\_ by speaking the truth in love.
6. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and admit my own weaknesses.
7. Respect \_\_\_\_\_ by showing courtesy.
8. Be trustworthy with \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Make \_\_\_\_\_ a priority.

Just as the brothers and sisters in a human family all have peculiar traits and annoying habits, so do our brothers and sisters in God's family, the Church. Fellowship in the church family, however, has nothing to do with compatibility, it is based on our relationship with God – we're His family and He expects us to act like we are.

**Prayer focus:** "God, help me not to settle for superficial relationships with other believers. Help me connect to a small group of believers in my church where I can learn what real love is all about." (2 Day 19)

**Other verses to study:**

Ephesians 4:3, 15, 25	1 Timothy 3:14-15	Proverbs 24:26
Galatians 6:1-2	Proverbs 28:23	Ecclesiastes 8:6
1 Timothy 5:1-2	1 Corinthians 5:3-12	1 Peter 5:5
Romans 12:16	Philippians 2:3-4	Romans 15:2
Titus 3:2, 10	Romans 12:10	Proverbs 16:28
Hebrews 10:25	Acts 2:46	

**Focus point:** Relationships require commitment.

**To ponder:** How could I help cultivate the characteristics of real fellowship in my church family or my human family?

## **Day 20: Restoring Broken Fellowship**

**Focus point:** Relationships are always worth restoring.

Conflicts are a natural part of \_\_\_\_\_.

What can or should I do about a relationship that is already broken or one that may become broken?

Why is God particularly concerned about relationships among Christians?

The following passage emphasizes why it is important that we live in peace with one another and how we are to do that. Underline and write a "w" for every "why" reason. Underline and write an "h" for every "how" reason.

### **Ephesians 4 (NLT)**

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. <sup>2</sup>Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup>Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace.*

*<sup>4</sup>We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. <sup>5</sup>There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all and in us all and living through us all.*

*<sup>21</sup>Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. <sup>23</sup>Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. <sup>24</sup>You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness--righteous, holy, and true.*

*<sup>25</sup>So put away all falsehood and "tell your neighbor the truth" because we belong to each other <sup>26</sup>And "don't sin by letting anger gain control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup>for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.*

*<sup>29</sup>Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

*<sup>30</sup>And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.*

*<sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. <sup>32</sup>Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

We must do everything in our power to be \_\_\_\_\_.

What peacemakers do:

What peacemakers don't do:

Seven steps to restore broken fellowship:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between reconciliation and resolution? Which is more important for relationships?

**Verse to remember: Romans 12:18 (TEV)**

*Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.*

**Prayer focus:** "Father, give me clear vision to see how to best restore a broken relationship. I need wisdom, humility, love, and courage to do the right thing and take the first step to restoration." (2 Day 20)

**Other verses to study:**

- |                    |                   |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Corinthians 5:18 | Philippians 2:1-2 | Romans 15:5        |
| John 13:35         | 1 Corinthians 6:5 | 1 Corinthians 1:10 |
| Matthew 5:9        | James 4:1-2       | Matthew 5:23-24    |
| 1 Peter 3:7        | Proverbs 28:9     | Job 5:2            |

Job 18:4

Philippians 2:4

Psalms 73:21, 22

Proverbs 19:11

Romans 15:2, 3

Matthew 7:5

1 John 1:8

Proverbs 15:1

Proverbs 16:21

Ephesians 4:29

Romans 12:10, 18

Philippians 2:3

1 Peter 3:11

**To ponder:** Who do I need to restore a broken relationship with today? What do I need to do to for my part?

## **Day 21: Protecting the Church**

**Focus point:** Nothing on earth is more valuable to God than His Church.

### **Verse to remember: Romans 14:19 (PH)**

*Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.*

In order to keep harmony and unity in the church we need to

1. Focus on what we have in \_\_\_\_\_, not our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in our expectations because the church is made up of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Choose to \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Refuse to participate in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Practice God's method for \_\_\_\_\_ (see Matthew 18:15-17)
6. Support the church \_\_\_\_\_.

**Prayer focus:** "Father, I need your wisdom to act in ways that protect the unity of your church. Help me to squelch gossip and instead be an encourager. I want to be a unifier, not a divider." (2 Day 21)

### **Other verses to study:**

John 17:20-23

Ephesians 4:2-4

Romans 14:19

Romans 10:12	Romans 12:4,5	1 Corinthians 1:10
1 Corinthians 8:6	1 Corinthians 12:13	Ephesians 5:5
Philippians 2:2	Romans 14:1, 13	2 Timothy 2:23-26
Ephesians 4:29	Matthew 5:9	James 5:9
Romans 14:4,10	Revelation 12:10	Proverbs 17:4
Proverbs 16:28	Proverbs 26:20	Proverbs 25:9
Proverbs 20:19	Proverbs 17:4	Jude 1:19
Galatians 5:15	1 Corinthians 10:24	1 Corinthians 5:5
Hebrews 13:17	2 Timothy 2:14	Philippians 4:2
Titus 2:15	Titus 3:2	1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

**To ponder:** What am I personally doing to protect the unity of my church family right now?

## **Conclusion**

We best fulfill our second purpose – loving God and loving each other – in the Church. Being called a child of God is an honor and a privilege that no one can earn. It is a free gift through the blood of Christ and the grace of God. When we choose to accept this gift, we are “born again” into God’s family, and we become brothers and sisters of Christ and of each other as His children. Within this family, God has given us the responsibility and duty to help make it what He wants it to be – a safe and secure place where we have caring and loving relationships with each other, grow to be more like Jesus, and bring glory to Him, our Father. The church as God intends it is all about relationships, and only when we choose to follow God’s plan for fellowship will the plan for His church be fulfilled. When it does happen, it is a beautiful thing and God smiles!

**References:**

- <sup>1</sup> Warren, Rick. ***The Purpose Driven Life***. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
  - <sup>2</sup> 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](http://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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**Notes:**