

Theme: Why did God create humans? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

I. Intro - The Importance of Purpose

- A. Every organization must understand its purpose to be successful
- B. Every person also wants to know their purpose
- C. *Purpose Driven Life* - 32 million copies, 85 languages
- D. What is our purpose? Why are we here?
- E. First of four teachings on first four catechism questions

II. Created To Glorify God

- A. The first key idea: we are created!
Why did God **create** humans?
To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
 - 1. This question assumes we were created
 - 2. If we just evolved, there is no purpose to life!
 - 3. This is why Scripture, creeds and our catechism begin with the fact that God created everything - including us!
In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

I believe in the God the Father almighty, **creator** of heaven and earth - Apostles Creed

Why did God **create** humans?
To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
(Catechism, Q1)
- 4. The fundamental fact of our existence is that we were created by God and thus have a purpose.

- B. Our purpose: Created to glorify God!
Why did God create humans?
To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do it all for the glory of God.** 1 Corinthians 10:31

- 1. All creation exists for God's glory
"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."
Revelation 4:11

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:36

- a. God is worthy of glory because He is the source of creation and sustains creation moment by moment
 - b. All creation comes from God, exists by Him, and is moving back to Him.
 - c. God and His glory is the center of all creation, and if anyone or anything becomes oriented towards something other than God and His glory it becomes twisted and perverted.
- 2. We are to glorify God in everything - this is our purpose in action
So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - a. The call is not to glorify God when we gather on Sunday but in EVERYTHING we do.
 - b. This includes eating, drinking, everything!
 - c. This is an orientation of living all of life before the face of God with a view to making God central and bringing glory to Him in all we think, desire, and do.

III. Created To Enjoy God Forever

A. We were created to enjoy God

Why did God create humans?

To glorify God **and enjoy Him** forever.

You have made known to me the path of life; **you will fill me with joy in your presence**, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11

1. The result of a life bent on glorifying God is joy!
2. Because we were created to know, love, and glorify God, if we are given to this pursuit it will bring overflowing joy to our life.

B. God is the only source of true, satisfying, lasting joy

1. All that the Psalmist - and we! - long for is found in God and God alone.
2. The nature of all creation is that the only doorway to true joy is found in God Himself. Every other joy we experience is ultimately rooted in God Himself and can only find fulfillment in relation to God.

The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives or children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams. But God is the ocean. Jonathan Edwards

C. The path to joy and life is not found in self-fulfillment but rather in turning away from self to God

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. Matthew 16:24–25

1. Our culture tells us that true joy and freedom is found by chasing my desires and experiencing self-fulfillment.
2. Jesus tells us that true life and joy is found in denying yourself and chasing after Him.
3. Paradoxically, a self-centered life ultimately saps true joy, but a God-centered life bears the fruit of deep, soul-satisfying joy.

D. The joy that arises from a God-centered life is eternal

Why did God create humans?

To glorify God and enjoy Him **forever**.

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with **eternal pleasures** at your right hand. Psalm 16:11

1. Any "joy" we find apart from God in this world is temporal, but the joy of a God-centered life is eternal.
2. The joy of glorifying God will never end but will expand throughout eternity as our capacity to glorify and enjoy God grows through endless ages.

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do I understand I was created to glorify God?

1. I am not a random, cosmic accident; I was designed with a purpose!

2. I was designed to glorify God, and any other goal is ultimately self-destructive and goes against my very design.
 3. This is not about having a piece of life devoted to God, it is about all of life being lived to glorify God, in obedience to His Word and will.
 4. To glorify God is to submit all of my desires, thoughts, and actions to Him, seeking to serve Him and others in all I do.
 5. Have I devoted my life to God and His glory?
 6. Do I daily reorient myself to live for God's glory?
 7. Is every area of my life - personal, family, social, work, financial, entertainment, etc. - submitted to God and His will so that it brings Him glory?
- B. Do I understand that true eternal joy is found in God alone?
1. A life focused on God rather than self does not sap joy, it gives joy!
 2. Do I understand that all joy finds its ultimate source in God?
 3. Do I consistently trace all other joys in my life back to God, or do I stop with the medium of joy rather than its source?
 4. Are there areas in my life where I am trying to seek joy apart from God?
 5. Do I see that sin is ultimately finding my purpose and joy in ANYTHING other than God?
- C. A prayer to glorify and enjoy God - now and forever!

Our Purpose: To Glorify and Enjoy God

1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 16:11

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Prayer

Jude 1:24-25

Teaching keywords: Catechism; God; humanity; joy

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy —²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24–25

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11