



WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

October 27, 2013 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 4: YOU'RE CALLED TO BELONG

Purpose 1: You Were Planned for God's Pleasure

Purpose 2: You Were Formed for God's Family

Purpose 3: You Were Created to Be Like Christ

Romans 8:28-29 (ESV)

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:28-29 (NLT)

28 And we know that God causes everything to work together* for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn* among many brothers and sisters.

The goal of your life as a follower of Jesus is to **BECOME** like Jesus!

How God Helps Us Become Like Christ:

1. Continually learning to know Jesus in **THE BIBLE**.
2. Continually learning to image Jesus by **THE HOLY SPIRIT**.
3. Continually learning to love like Jesus with **OTHER PEOPLE**.
4. Continually learning to follow Jesus in my **EXPERIENCES**.
 - God uses **TROUBLE** to teach us to **TRUST**.
 - God uses **TEMPTATION** to teach us to **OBEY**.
 - God uses **TRESPASSES** to teach us to **FORGIVE**.

1:10 HOMEWORK

Open Your Group in Prayer

"Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish." Hebrews 12:1-2 (TLB)

1. To become what God calls us to be, the first thing we need to do is simplify our lives. What is holding you back? Share with your group as a way to move forward in your race.
2. Keeping our eyes on Jesus is key to becoming like him and thereby fulfilling our purpose in life. What does Hebrews 12:1-2 say about how to de-clutter our lives and focus on Jesus?
3. Describe to the group your favorite spot where you like to meet with Jesus.

4. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16.** List out the ways that God's Word is helpful in restoring the way you image God.

"All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches." 1 Corinthians 9:25-26 (NLT)

4. What characteristics do athletes develop in order to win a race? Explain how they would directly apply to believers.

"I am sure that God, who began a good work within you, will continue his work until it is finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again." Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

5. What great truth is revealed in Philippians 1:6? Take a moment in your group to magnify God, exalting his name for his saving grace in our lives.

"Jesus did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne. Think of what he went through; how he put up with so much hatred from sinners! So do not let yourselves become discouraged and give up." Hebrews 12:2-3 (TEV)

6. When it gets hard, remember the reward. From the passage above, discuss how to keep from becoming discouraged.

7. What does it take to develop Christlike character?

8. How can your small group help one another become all that God is calling you to be? List a few ways.