

Cornerstone Church

June 25, 2017

Our Purpose (And Reason for Existence)

Cornerstone Church (and you as well) Exists to:

Glorify God By Making Connecting, Growing & Serving Disciples of Jesus Christ

Today's Sermon: We Exist to Glorify God

Today's Passage: 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

[31] So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. [32] Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, [33] just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. (ESV)

Introduction

There is a cause worth dying for greater than our country or family or possessions or fame or comfort. It is to spread and live for the glory of God. I want to explore this thesis by asking some basic questions.

- #1. Why do I get out of bed in the morning?
 - Depressed people have a hard time coming out from under the covers, why?
 - What is your motivation to hit the floor at 6 a.m. or 5 or 4 a.m.? Is it to put food on the table and you have to? Is it because your wife and family expect you to be sociable and participate in human intercourse? Is it because getting out of bed feels better than staying in bed especially when you have so many options and choices to entertain yourself?
 - Here's where Maslow's hierarchy of needs is helpful to analyze why you do what you do. Review for people.

- #2. What would get me out of bed faster in the morning?
 - Is it the promise of a bonus you can spend on . . .
 - Is it that you know you have a compliment waiting for you at your next review?
 - Is it that you are excited about what your company is accomplishing for society other than turning a profit and giving the CEO a fat raise.
 - Is it that your time is spent investing in other people and seeing them grow or be blessed?
 - All of the above have vanishing returns. Bonuses get spent and the things they buy rust. Compliments can be used to feed your ego and in the end used to manipulate you. All companies have selfish goals, even the ones that claim they exist to improve people's lives. (If they made people's lives worse they wouldn't be in business). Blessing and investing in other people sounds great until they turn on you or fail to pass on the blessings you have given them.
- #3. What would carry my spirit with vigor and energy through the day?
 - Every motivation I have mentioned so far is unsustainable in the long run. None of them reach the zenith of an eternal value or an eternal cause that will pay dividends for all eternity.
- So, What would make me go to sleep faster at night with a deep sense of satisfaction that my life had meaning and purpose? Only one cause – that is to glorify God.
- **“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy**

Him forever” *Westminster Catechism*

- John Piper has tweaked this statement by adding the word “by”.
- Is this statement true and if so, shouldn't every church have this phrase in its purpose statement? All the signs saying “Love God, Love People”. Does that go far enough?
- Let's look at Scripture to examine whether or not this is true and if so, then shouldn't it be the focus of everything we do at Cornerstone?
 1. **Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” (ESV)** The Mona Lisa glorifies Leonardo da Vinci – we glorify God in exactly the same kind of ways only not because we are portraits but our lives are in living color. This may sound selfish on a human level that God wants to get all the glory, but who else should? Allah? Let's compare the two. . . see attached Or is it not right and good and best for us to prize and praise the one and only God who is all loving, all joy, all peace, all patient, all kindness, all goodness, all faithful, all gentle, all self-controlling. Would you rather praise and prize someone who is full of hatred, anger, strife, all evil, all deceitful? What a world that would be. Just look at what Satan has done to the ghettos of Detroit or Chicago. Therefore by prizing and glorifying what is good benefits us. We become like that which we are drawn to and attracted to and isn't that good?
 2. **Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. (ESV) Isaiah 48:11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. (ESV)** If God were to share His glory with anything less than himself it would mean that God was

somehow happy with someone who is less loving, kind, good than he is. God cannot find his soul satisfaction in anything less than Himself nor can we.

3. Finally **Jeremiah 2:12-13 Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. (ESV)** God does not want us to settle for less when he has so much more to offer. What is less for a church? **Numbers! Buildings! Budget! Programs!** God may give these things to a church but trust me, most churches today are doing anything and everything they can to be the biggest, best, most entertaining, most pleasing, most consumer oriented in order to maintain their egos, egos in the pulpit and pew. Not all churches, most.
4. What is more for a church? Anything that makes people say, “God did this” If God takes simple people and fills them with Holy passion to do what only God can do in healing, blessing, loving, caring, committing, sacrificing, obeying, witnessing to others, and outsiders looking in observe and admit that God is behind this kind of love, we know we are prioritizing God's glory above all else.

Next week we will talk about how we do this.