

Purpose_03

Script References

Introduction

Alexis: Hey there! Alexis here with some final thoughts on the topic of “purpose”.

I have a question for you: Do you ever think you’d be better off on your own? Maybe you’ve had some bad relationships or family issues and you’re just done with messy people.

Believe it or not, the solo life isn’t good for us. Today, we’re talking about something that without it, we couldn’t live out our God-given purpose: relationships.

The Triune Community

Remember what Eli said in the first video of this session. He said, “God created us to worship him by living out our calling as his image-bearers in creation.” Well, part of carrying out the image of the Triune God means living in community because God himself lives in community. Before there was anything, there was God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - existing eternally in a relationship of love.

The early church fathers described it as a divine dance in which each Person of the Trinity circles the others, honoring and delighting in each other. It’s a relationship characterized by perfect, self-giving love. This is the God who created the universe, and we see this relational dynamic woven into the fabric of creation.

Pause the video for a moment and ask yourself have you ever experienced a community or relationships that remind you of the “divine dance” of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? How did the people treat each other? Write down your thoughts.

Created for Community

Our God created us for relationships - with him, with one another, and with the rest of creation.

No matter how independent you think you are, there's no escaping your need for others, and there's no escaping your responsibility to others.

Now, I know this rubs our cultural sensibilities the wrong way. We're trained to be autonomous individuals - to fear commitment - and to seek our own interests first.

But listen to what Jesus prayed just before he went to the cross. In this prayer, he's talking about all the future believers who would come to know him. He says,

I pray that... all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:21-23)

Catch what Jesus is saying. He's praying that all his future followers would enter back into the relational dynamic we were created for. He's praying that the Church would live in unified love like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have loved each other for eternity. He's praying that we would participate in the divine dance!

Take a beat and read John 17. Notice the word “glory.” What does this passage tell you about the Father and Son’s relationship? What does it tell you about the relationship God wants to have with us and for us to have with each other? Write down your thoughts.

The Church Community

In this passage, Jesus is praying for the Church - the community of believers across cultures and generations who are being formed into Christ's Body on earth.

When Jesus saves you, he saves you out of the isolation of your sin and into this community.

It's in this relational context that you can live out your God-given purposes. Listen to how Paul describes it in his letter to the Corinthians.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body — whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

What Paul means here is that each of us, as followers of Jesus, are supposed to do life together. Each of us has unique gifts that we are to use to serve one another. When we use our gifts in community with other Jesus-followers, we present a beautiful portrait of unity and equality to the world.

Pause the video one last time and read 1 Corinthians 12. What does the metaphor of the body for the Church tell you about how God wants us to live and serve together? How might God be calling you to offer yourself more fully to your church community?

Joining a community of faith will support and challenge you to grow in your relationships with God and others. If you're part of a faith community, but so far have been on the sidelines, go "all in."

Give, serve, join a small group, make participation a priority in your life and on your calendar. Trust me, being in a community of believers imparts a deeper understanding of Christ in your life.

So, my friends, let's embrace the truth: that we're designed for intimacy and relationship. And remember, we're not meant to journey alone — find your community and let's all learn to love God and others well.