

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

Part 4 of THE LIFE JESUS OFFERS. Various Passages.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 16, 2023.

KNOW YOUR WHY

Simon Sinek.

- Many organizations know what they do and how they do it, but they do not know why. Why is a powerful dynamic; it inspires commitment and action.

The Japanese concept of Ikigai is about knowing our reason for being.

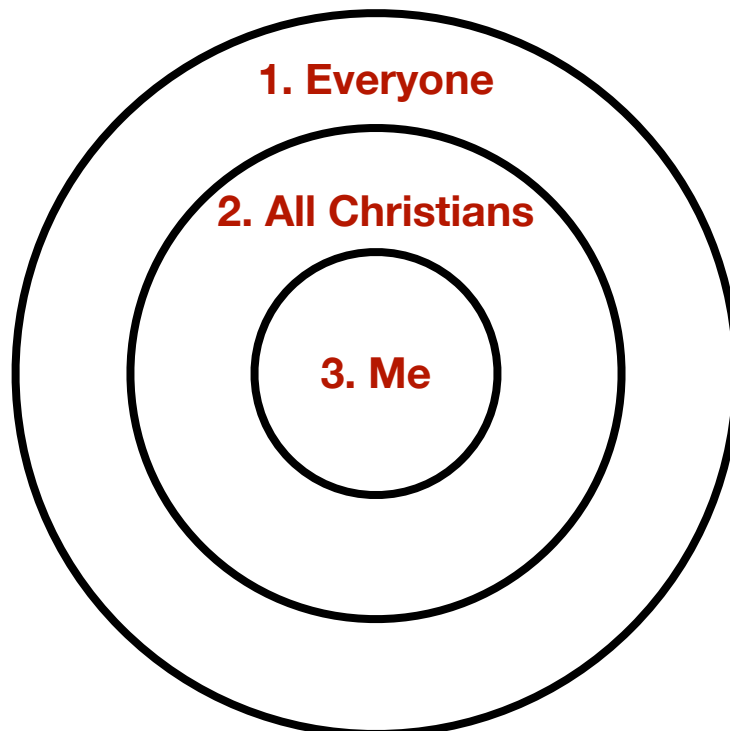
- Knowing our purpose leads to a longer, happier, more meaningful life.

The Bible has a lot to say about our why, our reason for living.

Proverbs 16:4a (NLT) The LORD has made everything for his own purposes,

We were made by God on purpose for a purpose.

THE THREE RINGS OF WHY



Ring One: Everyone.

- The outer ring is the reason for which God created everyone.
- All people exist to magnify God by knowing, loving, and worshiping him.

Exodus 20:3, (ESV) “You shall have no other gods before me” (it means “not have any other god but me - NLT). 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve (worship) them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (ESV) “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Acts 17:23-27 (ESV) As I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.

Ring Two: All Christians.

- God has four purposes for all followers of Jesus Christ:
 - Membership: We were formed for God’s family.
 - Maturity: We were created to become like Christ.
 - Ministry: We were shaped for serving God.
 - Mission: We were made for a mission.

- Membership: We were formed for God's family. Our purpose is to connect to Christ and his church.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27 (ESV) For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit ... 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

- Maturity: We were created to become like Christ. Our purpose is change our thinking and lifestyle to conform to the character and conduct of Christ.

Romans 8:29 (ESV) Those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son ... That's the goal. Paul also called it maturity:

Colossians 1:28 (ESV) Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ (fully formed).

- Ministry: We were shaped for serving God. Our purpose is to contribute to the health of the church family by ministering or serving.

Romans 12:6-8 (ESV) Having gifts (from the Holy Spirit) that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Mission: We were made for a mission. Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ..." Acts 1:8 (ESV) You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Ring three: Me.

- This is my specific calling to ministry and mission, MY WHY.
- Prayerfully commit to live the purpose driven life. I commit to:
 - Magnify: To know, love, and worship the creator God.
 - Membership: To connect to Christ and his church.
 - Maturity: To engage in spiritual practices that conform me to Christ.
 - Ministry: To strengthen the church through Spirit-powered service.
 - Mission: To make friends and invite them to church.
- Join a church group/team in which to serve and make the church stronger:
 - Small group
 - Bible study
 - Prayer team
 - Work team
 - Outreach team
 - Other _____

My group team is _____

- Ask the Lord to give me a faith-partner who can help me discern my specific calling to ministry and mission.

My faith partner is _____

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on God's purpose for our lives.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

Prayerfully apply the teaching.

- Jesus lived his life on purpose. Have a discussion based on the following passages that describe his purpose-driven life: Mark 1:35-38; John 4:34-36; 5:36; 6:38; 8:29; 9:3-4; 10:25, 32, 37-38; 14:10; 17:4; 19:30.
- How did his sense of purpose manifest itself in Jesus' life and ministry. How did it impact his what, when, and where?
- What do you think your specific "MY WHY" calling is? Does the group agree with you or do they have other insights?

Pray together. Be bold.

Heavenly Father, we read about Christ's "on purpose" life and we see how it changed the world for time and eternity. Help us to discern, define, and commit to your purpose for our lives. Help us identify our unique calling - the way you have assigned us to build up your church. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so we can serve with spiritual power. We praise, honor, and bless you Lord. Amen!

Preparation for Next Sunday.

- Pray for Peter as he prays about and discerns which of over 25 "burdens" he should share with the Cornerstone on April 23