

PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

The Purpose Driven Life, Part 2

May 3rd, 2009

Revelation 4:11 (NLT) "You [God] created everything, and it is for Your pleasure, that they exist and were created."

God made you to enjoy you

God made you to love you. God wants you to love Him back
Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV) "Love the Lord your God... This is the first and greatest commandment."

My first purpose is to worship God

Romans 12:1 (GN) "Because of God's great mercy to us... Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him. This is the true worship that you should offer."

1. Worship is my response to God's love

2. Worship is giving back to God

What do you give to a God who has everything? You give Him your love
Mark 12:30 (NCV) "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

God wants you to love Him...

T houghtfully - "all your mind"

P assionately - "with all your heart & all your soul"

P ractically - "all your strength"

1. Worship is focusing my attention on God - "all your mind"

God has focused His attention on you
Psalms 139:1-3 (CEV) "You have looked deep into my heart, Lord, and You know all about me. You know when I am resting or when I am working... You notice everything I do and everywhere I go."

Two things distract us from focusing our attention on God:

- By nature we are self-centered
- We live in a self-centered culture
Romans 8:7 (TM) "Focusing on yourself is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, and ends up thinking more about self than God."
Romans 12:2 (TM) "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God."

How can I focus my attention on God?

- Establish a daily time with God
Matthew 6:6 (TM) "Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace."

- Develop a constant conversation with God
Psalm 105:4 (GN) "Worship Him continually."

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT) "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, whose thoughts are fixed on You!"

2. Worship is expressing my affection to God - "with all your heart & all your soul"

1 John 4:19 (KJ) "We love Him, because He first loved us."

Hosea 6:6 (LB) "I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love! I don't want your offerings—I want you to know Me!"

We are here to know & love God

God has extremely deep feelings for you

Exodus 34:14 (NLT) "He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you."

God doesn't want "duty" from you

You can begin to express your affection to God by just saying "thanks"

The greatest way you can express affection to God is by giving your life to Him

Romans 6:13 (NLT) "Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life."

We often won't give ourselves completely to God because of fear

Our problem isn't that we don't love God enough, we don't realize how much God loves us

3. Worship is using my abilities for God - "all your mind"

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people."

Colossians 3:23 (GN)

When you change who you are working for, your work becomes worship

In life, it's not what you do that matters; it's who you do it for

Romans 12:1 (TM) "Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life --and place it before God as an offering."

Real worship is a lifestyle

The greatest temptation is to worship something other than God

When we focus our attention, express our affection, and use our abilities for God, God will take care of everything else.

Psalm 37:23 (NLT) "God delights in every detail of their [the godly] lives."

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to miss your primary purpose
2 Corinthians 5:9 (NIV) "So we make it our goal to please Him..."