Becoming a Woman of Purpose

CHAPTER ONE - GOD’S PURPOSE:

A PEOPLE WHO WILL REFLECT HIS GLORY

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Revelation 4:11 KJV

The proper understanding of everything in life begins with God. No one will ever understand the necessity of conversion who does not know why God created us. He created us “in his image” so that we would image forth his glory in the world. We were made to be prisms refracting the light of God’s glory into all of life. Why God should want to give us a share in shining with his glory is a great mystery. Call it grace or mercy or love – it is an unspeakable wonder. Once we were not. Then we existed for the glory of God!

John Piper, Desiring God

I once saw a cartoon of a man who walks up to an information booth and asks the person behind the counter, “Who am I?” and “What am I doing here?” Good questions! Why have we been created? What is God’s purpose for us? What prompted God to “make man in our image, in our likeness”? To begin to comprehend God’s purpose helps to establish a foundation for us to embrace life and to honor the Lord. Certainly everything in life begins with God and He alone is worthy to receive the glory due His name. What is amazing is that God desires relationship with us and wants us to reflect His glory!

God’s Purpose: To Receive Glory

The Hebrew word translated “glory” comes from a root that means “heavy” or “weighty.” The word is normally used in figurative sense to suggest an impressive or worthy person. . . . But the glory of God is objective. It is rooted not in the evaluation of others, but in his very nature. When God’s glory is unveiled and recognized, all those things in which human beings take pride fade to nothingness.

Lawrence O. Richards

1. What do these Scriptures tell us about God’s glory?

Psalm 19:1

Psalm 115:1

Isaiah 6:3

1 Corinthians 10:31
2. a. God’s glory is all around us! In what ways have you seen God’s glory displayed in creation?

   b. What was your response?

   For God’s ultimate objective, as the Bible declares it, is threefold - to vindicate His rule and righteousness by showing His sovereignty in judgment upon sin; to ransom and redeem His chosen people; and to be loved and praised by them for His glorious acts of love and self-vindication. God seeks what we should seek - His glory, in and through men - and it is for the securing of this end, ultimately, that He is jealous.  

   J. I. Packer

God’s Purpose: To Have a People for His Own

3. David proclaimed, “Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them” (Psalms 139:16).

   God has made it very clear in His Word that we have been created thoughtfully and purposefully. Why did God take the dust of the ground and breathe the breath of life into Adam? Read these verses and record your answers.

   Psalms 149:4

   2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

   Titus 2:11-14

   ________________________________________________________________

4. God has redeemed a people for His own. Write down your thoughts concerning God’s desire to be in relationship with you.
What is man’s purpose here? According to the text, creation exists for man. But since God made man like himself, man’s dominion over the world and his filling the world is a display – and imaging forth – of God. God’s aim, therefore, was that man would so act that he mirror forth God, who has ultimate dominion. Man is given the exalted status of image-bearer not so he would become arrogant and autonomous (as he tried to do in the fall), but so he would reflect the glory of his Maker whose image he bears. God’s purpose in creation, therefore, was to fill the earth with his own glory.

John Piper

AUTHOR’S REFLECTION – In considering the magnificence of God and His great desire for His own to honor Him, I have been struck with my lack of even thinking about or acknowledging God’s glory on a daily basis. My tendency is to view God as mainly Someone who helps, comforts, and guides, which He does, but my worship and adoration of Him is sporadic and shallow in comparison to who He really is. I want to begin to set aside special times just to focus on God, and God alone. I want to read and memorize Scripture that proclaims and guides me in praising Him for His majestic glory. I want to prepare myself for the eternal worship I will be giving our Lord. I realize that I am missing a vital part of my relationship with God by not consistently acknowledging His preeminence.

I have also been struck with the apostle Paul’s exhortation that everything we do should be done to bring glory to God. Does God really mean everything? When I seriously consider this admonition, it has a profound effect on my choices and my way of life! If I read this book, will God be pleased? If I do this activity, will it cause others to want to praise God? If I listen to this music, will it enable me to worship God? If I say these words, will it bring glory to God? If my purpose is to reflect the majesty of God, then all of my decisions are based on “Will God receive glory?”

All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord;
   and thy saints shall bless thee.
They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom,
   and talk of thy power;
To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. 

Psalms 145:10-12

How I need to give thanks to God for His creation, for His mighty acts. How I need to bless God by speaking of His power and kingdom. How I need to order my life around one incredible thought: God is to be honored in all I do.

My heart’s desire is to be so overwhelmed with our incomparable, awesome God that my life cannot help but bring Him glory.

A.W. Tozer comments on God’s covenant with Abraham in Genesis 17: (paraphrased)

Abraham, I am trying to tell you something – something very important. I want you to listen and to comprehend. Abraham, you were made in My image and you were designed for a single purpose: to worship and glorify Me. . . . If you do not honor this purpose, your life will degenerate into shallow, selfish, humanistic pursuits . . . commit your whole life and future
into My hands. Let Me as your Creator and God fulfill in you My perfect design. It is My great desire that you become a faithful and delighted worshiper at My throne. . . . When you have found Me, your Creator, your Redeemer and your Lord, you have found everything you need! It will be your privilege to trust and obey. It will be My privilege to bless you, guide you and sustain you.

God’s Purpose for Me (For Contemplation and Prayer)

5. Over the next few days think about God’s glory and His desire for you to reflect His glory. To help your reflection and application, carefully read and consider the following verse.

   Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Use the following questions to guide your meditation.

6. What in my life does not bring God glory?

7. How can I become more aware of choosing to honor God in all I do?

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE MEMORY: 1 Corinthians 10:31
CHAPTER ONE - SCRIPTURE VERSES

Psalms 19:1
The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Psalms 115:1
Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth’s sake.

Isaiah 6:3
And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

1 Corinthians 10:31
Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Psalms 149:4
For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:11-14
For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.