

My Life Has Purpose in Christ

1 Peter 2:9-12

Purpose and meaning can sometimes seem very elusive in our busy world. Popular culture can lead a person to believe that one's ultimate purpose can be customized (that truth is subjective) and that a purposeful lifestyle can be used to form and shape a preferred identity, but what does the Bible have to say about this subject? In this morning's Scripture passage, we are going to explore how Identity and Purpose are intrinsically tied together for believers in Christ. God's answers always seem to confound worldly reason.

What is life's ultimate purpose? _____

- I. Peter's emphasis on the believers' **Identity in Christ (v. 9a)**:
 - *Chosen Generation*,
 - *Royal Priesthood*,
 - *Holy Nation*,
 - *His own special people*
 - What do these identities mean for believers?
- II. Peter demonstrates **Purpose driven through Identity**:
 - Primary *objective of our purpose* here on earth?
_____ (v. 9b)
- III. Peter **Returns to Identity (v. 10)**:
 - Who you were before and who you are now?
- IV. Peter brings **Objective of our Purpose** into focus (vv. 11-12):
 - What does it look like when we disregard our identity and purpose and, instead, pursue selfish pleasures?
 - What does God want to see happen when the virtues and praises of the One who saved us are proclaimed?

Position in Christ: Remember, your position does not change. If you have trusted in Jesus, you are completely justified – declared righteous! His perfect righteousness is credited to the believer's account. Nothing in creation can separate a believer from the love of God. The believer's position in Christ is not contingent upon their condition in this world. That position can be better understood through the identity Christ has provided. Identity for Christians is unique – these are positional statements revealing who and what God says you are! It is important for every Christian to embrace their identity in Christ:

- You are alive in Christ (Romans 6:11, Ephesians 2:4-5)
- You are loved in Christ (Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:9-11, John 16:27)
- You are a member of God's family in Christ (John 1:12, 1 John 3:1)
- You have an inheritance in Christ (Ephesians 1:11)
- You are free in Christ (Gal 5:1)
- You are complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)
- You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own in Christ (1 Peter 2:9)

Condition in this world: Remember, your condition is contingent. Our condition on earth can be riddled with sin. Just because that sin is present in the life of a believer does not mean that believer has lost their position, or that they never had a position in Christ to begin with...a poor condition in the life means the believer is not able to enjoy their relationship with God. It can also have eternal ramifications in terms of loss of rewards.

By embracing your identity in Christ, and focusing on Him as a model to emulate, your condition can begin to improve!