

YOU

Bible Study

Sermon Series: Essentials of Christianity

To be used with: The Purpose of Humanity

Sermon Title Possibilities: What's My Purpose?

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5,26-31

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study “Essentials of Christianity,” this sermon uses the session scripture passage to examine the purpose of humanity. While we are tempted to think life is all about us, in reality, we were created to serve and honor our Creator.

Introduction: Culture makes us believe that everything is all about “me.” Product marketing, songs, movies, and shows all seem to reflect the idea that the individual is the center of the universe. In addition, we deal with a multitude of personal responsibilities including family, work, community, and church. Every responsibility includes expectations, expressed or implied, about how we are to fulfill those responsibilities.

When God created the first man and first woman, He gave them specific responsibilities in life and things they were to do. However, the most important and overriding responsibility that God gave to humans was to be His representatives over all creation. The basic purpose of humanity is to serve God and to honor Him.

1. God created everything. (v. 1-5)

Most people are familiar with the creation story. God spoke everything into existence from nothing—*ex nihilo* in Hebrew means that nothing was in existence before God spoke it into being. When we create anything, we need something to use to create something else; God did not.

The name of God in verse 1, in Hebrew, is *Elohim*. This is one of the most common names of God used in Scripture. It conveys strength and power—in reference to God’s omnipotence. *Elohim* is often shortened to *El* to form compound names for God such as *El Shaddai* meaning God (*El*) Almighty.

In the six days of creation, God created the planets, the stars, the sun and moon, and our earth. He created all water and land masses, the animals, the plants, the insects, the birds, the fish, and the people—everything. And everything that God created He declared to be good. God was pleased with everything He created.

2. God created man and woman. (v. 26-27)

Verse 26 references the three Persons of the triune God in “*let us make man.*” God created man and woman in His image. That means people are created with inherent qualities and characteristics that reflect God including love, compassion, mercy, kindness, gentleness, and so on. However, not all of the characteristics of God’s nature are reflected in people. For example, people are not omniscient (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful), or omnipresent (present everywhere), nor are they sinless or eternal.

God created males and females distinct from one another, though each are created in the image of God. God’s purpose in creating man and woman was to ensure reproduction could take place. One aspect of being created in God’s image includes the idea of being in relationship with Him. We honor God when we display His image to the world.

3. God commissioned people to care for His creation. (v. 28-31)

God gave the man and the woman the responsibility of caring for His creation—all of it. All the plant life, all the animal life, and all the lives of people. We fulfill our purpose when we serve God by caring for His creation and reflecting His care for it. We are also to enjoy His creation.

When God looked at everything He had created and all that He set in motion, He declared it very good. That was the end of the sixth day.

Conclusion: Since the creation account of Genesis 1, every person has been given the same responsibilities and function—whether they recognize it or not. God created us to serve Him and to honor Him in the way we take responsibility for being in charge of His creation. Your purpose, today, is the same purpose that the first man and woman had—to worship, serve, and honor the God who created you.

Author Bio: Rick Prall is a senior curriculum specialist with Ramsey Solutions and an ordained minister. He has served churches in California, Oklahoma, Texas, and Tennessee and has written Bible study curriculum material for over 30 years. Rick has been married to Helene for 37 years and they have two grown and married children and two wonderful granddaughters. Rick and Helene have a passion for international missions and have served in many countries together; they are members of Gladeville Baptist Church.