

The Purpose of the Christian Life

I. Created for God's Glory and Joy

Bible References: Genesis 1:26–28; Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Psalm 16:11; Revelation 4:11

God created us for a reason. We are not accidents or without meaning. The Bible teaches that all people were made in the image of God. That means we were created to reflect His character, and to live in a relationship with Him. But more than that, we were made for God. Isaiah 43:7 tells us clearly that we were created for His glory. Colossians 1:16 says everything—including us—was made through Jesus and for Jesus. Our lives have value because we were made by God and for God.

This means the purpose of our life is not to make ourselves happy in our own way. It is also not true that we are just meaningless pieces of matter. No—our true purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Psalm 16:11 says that in God's presence there is full joy, and Revelation 4:11 shows that all creation exists for God's pleasure. These verses show us that we were created to find our greatest joy in giving God the glory. When we love and worship Him, we become who we were meant to be.

II. The Danger of a Twisted Gospel

Bible References: Matthew 6:24–33; 2 Timothy 4:3–4; Romans 1:25; 1 Timothy 6:5–11; Colossians 2:20–23

Even though the Bible tells us our joy is in God, there are wrong ideas that can confuse us. One is called the prosperity gospel. This false teaching says that if you have strong faith, God will always give you money, success, or perfect health. But this idea is not biblical. It turns God into a machine that gives us what we want. Instead of worshiping God for who He is, people start loving only His gifts.

Another wrong idea is that the Christian life must always be hard and sad. Some people think that enjoying anything is bad. They think true Christians must always suffer. But this is also not what the Bible teaches. God does allow suffering to shape us, but He also gives us good gifts to enjoy. 1 Timothy 4:4 says that everything created by God is good when we receive it with thankfulness. The Christian life is not about having more things or having nothing. It is about enjoying God and using His gifts the right way. This brings both joy to us and glory to Him.

III. Finding Joy in Surrender

Bible References: Luke 9:23–25; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:7–10; Romans 12:1–2; Acts 7:54–60

The world tells us to follow our desires and live for ourselves. But Jesus teaches something different. In Luke 9:23–25, He says we must deny ourselves, take up our cross every day, and follow Him. That sounds difficult, but it leads to true joy. When we live only for ourselves, we may gain the world but lose our soul. But when we give our lives to Jesus, we find the life we were meant for.

Paul explains this in Galatians 2:20. He says he no longer lives for himself, but Christ lives in him. In Philippians 3, he says he gave up all things to know Jesus more deeply. This surrender brings peace and joy. Even in hard times, like Stephen's death in Acts 7, Christians can be full of joy. Stephen saw the glory of God even as he died. Why? Because his hope was not in this life, but in Christ. This is what it means to live for God: to give up control and trust Him fully, knowing that joy is found in Him—not in comfort or success.

IV. Living with Hope Now and Forever

Bible References: Philippians 1:20–21; John 15:11; Romans 8:18–25; Revelation 21:1–5; Westminster Shorter Catechism Q1

The Christian life is not only for today. It is full of hope for the future. God made us to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever—not just now, but for all eternity. This is why the Westminster Shorter Catechism says that our “chief end” (our main purpose) is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. That truth brings deep peace. Even when life is hard, we have a hope that cannot be shaken.

Philippians 1:21 says, “To live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Jesus gives us joy in this life (John 15:11) and even more joy in the life to come. Romans 8 reminds us that the hard things we go through now are small compared to the glory that is coming. Revelation 21 promises that one day God will make all things new—no more pain, no more sadness. This is our future. If we are in Christ, we can live today with joy, because we know our purpose and our eternal future are secure in Him.