

6. Evangelism Is Inviting Others Into Fellowship With God

Colossians 2:6, NIV – “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him.”

2 Corinthians 5:20, NIV – “We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

How is Christ appealing to them?

Matthew 23:37, NIV – “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.”

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION

The Five Purposes:

1. Worship – Expressing Our Love To God, And Receiving Love From Him
2. Fellowship - Living In Communion With God, And With His Children
3. Discipleship – Discovering God’s Heart, And Sharing It With Others
4. Service – Ministering To Others With The Heart Of God
5. Evangelism – Inviting Others To Experience And Enjoy Fellowship With God

The five eternal purposes can only truly be understood, and practiced, within the context of relationship

- To understand **worship** apart from relationship leads to dry liturgy
- To understand **fellowship** apart from relationship leads to pretension
- To understand **discipleship** apart from relationship leads to legalism
- To understand **service** apart from relationship leads to manipulation
- To understand **evangelism** apart from relationship leads to condemnation

The five purposes are simply five natural and overflowing consequences of being in fellowship with God.

The core of why God created you, is to have relationship with Him, and everything else flows out of that

ETERNAL PURPOSES AND INTIMACY

Part 3 – Service And Evangelism

David Hibbert – December 12, 2004

A. REVIEW

B. SERVICE / MINISTRY UNTO THE LORD IN HIS NAME

1. God Has Always Served

Matthew 20:26-28, NIV – (26) ... Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, (27) and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – (28) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2. Our Highest Calling Is To Serve God – Through Serving Others

Revelation 1:5-6, NIV – (5) ... To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, (6) and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father ...”

Matthew 25:35-40, NIV – (35) “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, (36) I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (37) Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? (38) When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? (39) When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” (40) The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

- Serving others, is the natural overflow, of intimacy with God
- When we draw close to God, we experience His heart, and God’s heart is to serve

3. Serving Is The Way Of The Spirit

Romans 7:6, NIV – “But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.”

- The closer we are to God, the closer we are to the heart of God, and so the more our serving reflects the heart of God

4. God Gave Us Gifts To Help Us Serve

1 Peter 4:10, NIV – “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”

- When we serve, using the gifts He has given us, we are actually administering, or dispensing, the very grace of God

5. Serving Is Partnering With God's Hands And God's Heart

2 Corinthians 13:4, NIV – “For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.”

- When we serve others, we live WITH Him, we minister WITH Him, we serve WITH Him
- Service is the overflow of God's heart through us, it is ministering to others, in His name, because God has always been a servant, and He wants to be a servant through us

C. EVANGELISM / INVITING OTHERS INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

1. God Has Always Enjoyed Intimate Relationship Within Himself

2. God Created Us To Share In The Joy Of His Relationship

- God didn't create us because He was lonely – He was completely fulfilled in the relationship He had in the Trinity
- Instead, the relationship that God has always experienced, was so awesome, and so full of joy, that God created mankind, so that He could share that intimacy of relationship with others

Genesis 3:8, NIV – “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day ...”

3. Our Sins Break Relationship With God

Isaiah 59:2, NRSV – “Your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

- The consequence of our disobedience, was to break our fellowship with Him, to the extent that we could not longer enjoy face to face intimate relationship with Him ... and so our communion with Him was broken

4. Jesus Came To Reconcile Us – To Restore Relationship

Ephesians 2:13-16, NIV – “(13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. (14) For he himself ... has ... destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, (15) ... His purpose was to create in himself one new man [ie. Christian] out of the two [ie. Jew and Gentile], thus making peace, (16) and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”

- God didn't just save you FROM sin – He saved you TO fellowship. To settle for anything less than intimate fellowship with God, is to minimize what Jesus did for us on the cross

5. Salvation Is About Relationship – Not Just Belief

John 1:12, NIV – “Yet to all who received him ... he gave the right to become children of God.”

- Salvation is about receiving a person – the Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 8:15, NIV – “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba', Father.”

- ALL of God, wants ALL of us
- All of the Godhead wants to come back into relationship with us