

Rick McKinney's brief chapter notes on Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life"

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

1. It's not about me and my purpose or desires. It's about God and his purpose and desires for me and the rest of creation.
2. I am no accident. God was thinking of me before time began and thus he must have a plan and purpose for me that I can fulfill.
3. What things drive my life? Knowing my true purpose gives my life meaning, simplicity, focus, motivation & eternal perspective.
4. I am made for an eternal purpose. This world is not my home. Thus I must always live in the light of eternity.
5. How do I see my life? Is it a dance or a game of chance? From God's point of view it is a test, a trust, & a temporary assignment.
6. Life is indeed a temporary assignment. It is brief and I am but a pilgrim here, an ambassador who will one day be called home.
7. The ultimate goal of the universe is show forth the glory of God. The glory of God is who He is. It is the essence of his nature, the weight of his importance, the radiance of his splendor, the demonstration of his power and the atmosphere of his presence. I can give glory to God by worshiping, by loving, by becoming like Him, by serving, and by witnessing to His love in my life.

PURPOSE # 1: I WAS PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE – A MAGNIFIER OF HIS GLORY

8. I was planned for God's pleasure. I can bring pleasure to God in my worship, which is all my life in offering to him.
9. I can make God smile by loving, trusting, obeying, and praising him wholeheartedly and by using my abilities in honor of him.
10. I can worship God by surrendering to him my trust, limitations & obedience and thus experience peace, freedom, power, the best.
11. I can become best friends with God through constant conversation with him and constant meditation on his Word.
12. To develop friendship with God I must choose total honesty & obedience, value his values & desire his friendship more than any.
13. God desires my worship to be accurate as to who He is, authentic in my heart, thoughtful in my mind, and practical in strength.
14. Even if I don't feel God's presence He is still ever present, ever caring, ever powerful, ever wise, ever faithful, and everlasting.

PURPOSE # 2: I WAS FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY – A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY

15. I was formed for God's family entered into by faith and baptism. My inheritance in this family is priceless and beyond decay.
16. Life without love is worthless. Love is preeminent. It lasts forever and is how I will be evaluated. Its best expression is time.
17. I am called to a local family of believers so that I may love, worship, fellowship, be discipled, minister, & fulfill my mission.
18. To experience authentic fellowship in true openness, sympathy & mercy I need a small group of people in which to share.
19. Cultivating genuine community requires honesty, humility, courtesy, confidentiality, and frequent committed contact.
20. Broken relationships can be restored through prayer, initiative, listening, confessing, not condemning, cooperation & reconcl.
21. To avoid divisiveness I must focus on commonality, realism, encouragement, not gossip, go privately first, & support pastor.

PURPOSE # 3: I WAS CREATED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST – A MODEL OF HIS CHARACTER

22. I am created to become like Christ in his character by putting off my old patterns, putting on Christ, & renewing my mind.
23. I am to grow up into Christlikeness. God works in me. My job is to work out my salvation by changing my thinking patterns.
24. To be transformed I need to abide in God's word by reading, receiving, researching, remembering & applying its truth.
25. God works good and transforms the troubles of those who love Him & are called to his good purposes and refuse to give up.
26. Every temptation is an opportunity to choose the good and to prepare to avoid evil desires, doubt, deception, & disobedience.
27. Temptation can be defeated by refocusing my attention, revealing my struggles to another, resisting & realizing vulnerability.
28. Maturity takes time as we are slow to learn, have a lot to unlearn, fear truth & pain, & habits take awhile - journal & patience.

PURPOSE # 4: I WAS SHAPED FOR SERVING GOD – A MINISTER OF HIS GRACE

29. I was put here to give not get. He chose & called me for a work of significant service and I will be held accountable.
30. I was shaped for serving God through my unique spiritual gifts and the feelings, passions & enthusiasms of my heart.
31. To understand my shape I must apply my abilities for God's glory using my unique personality and experiences.
32. God deserves my best. I need to assess my gifts, abilities, heart, personality, & experiences & I need to accept & enjoy them.
33. One with a servant's heart is available, attentive, dedicated, faithful, does their imperfect best, and has a low profile.
34. Servants are self-forgetful, think like stewards, don't compare, base their identity in Christ, & see ministry as an opportunity.
35. God loves to use my uncontrolled weaknesses. So I must admit them, be content with them, share them, and even glory in them.

PURPOSE # 5: I WAS MADE FOR A MISSION – A MESSENGER OF HIS GOOD NEWS

36. I was made to carry on Jesus' mission. It is a wonderful privilege, has eternal significance, gives life meaning, & heralds the end.
37. God gave me a message that includes my testimony, life lessons, godly passions & the Good News of God's love in Christ.
38. A world-class Christian, not a worldly one is other-centered and has local, national, global & eternal thinking in prayers/actions.
39. A balanced life includes worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship & discipleship; so examine self, journal, share in small group.
40. Living purposefully, not just existing, is the only way to live. So develop a purpose statement that gives direction, defines success, clarifies your roles & expresses your shape. Consider what will be the center of your life, its character, its contribution, its communication, & its lived out community. God is worthy and yearns for and seeks out those fully committed to Him.