

Designed for a Relationship with God

Intro: Recently a young man spoke to me after a near-death episode about the need to discover his purpose in life. Hopefully all of us want to know the answer to one of life most fundamental questions, “Why are we here? What is the purpose of my life?” Those who reject God have difficulty giving a satisfactory answer to this question. But to those who believe in God and His revelation the answer is logical and clear. We were made to have a relationship with God. That is seen in a number of ways:

We have the capacity to know God.

Though human, physical and earthbound, each of us has the capacity to know God. He has given us the intellect to reason about our existence and to know Him.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:18-20)

Paul affirms that human beings have the capacity to reason from the existence of our world that there is an eternal and powerful creator unlike ourselves, possessing a nature that not human, but divine, so that there is no rationale for atheism.

God spoke through Jeremiah reminding Israel that we have the capacity to know Him and that knowing God should be the highest achievement of our lives.

Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

The capacity to know God is the first proof that we were made for a relationship with Him.

We have the responsibility to seek God.

The Scriptures reveal that it is our duty, our obligation, to seek the God who made us.

and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (Acts 17:26-27)

Paul insisted to the Athenians that God’s object in creating mankind was that they might seek Him. Seeking God would be demonstrated in groping and finding. God has made Himself available to us.

This responsibility to seek God is proof that we were made for a relationship with God.

We have the obligation to obey God.

From the beginning God made it clear that He intended to interact with mankind. He is not the aloof God of the deist, but the personal God who involves Himself in man's life.

His commands were intended to reveal His goodness and to produce man's love and respect.

"So the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today. (Deuteronomy 6:24)

The fact that we are commanded to obey God is proof that we were made for a relationship with God.

We have the opportunity to be reconciled to God.

In spite of the obligation to obey, man rejected the goodness of God and in distrust turned to his own ways. He chose sin rather than obedience.

God could have abandoned His created purpose. He could have disposed of the creation He made. But instead, He set into motion a plan of redemption that would result in man's reconciliation. He planned to bring His Son into the world to provide a way of reconciliation.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)

Christ sent forth His apostles with a message of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Thus, the opportunity to be reconciled to God is proof that we were made for a relationship with God.

We have the call to be like God.

When God created man, He made man "in His image" or "after His likeness". God gave us the capacity to be as He is.

The objective of our reconciliation is that we rediscover that image marred by sin and have restored to us the likeness of God.

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (2 Peter 1:4)

The fact that we were called to be like God is proof that we were made for a relationship with God.

We have the hope of being with God.

The ultimate goal of God's creation was to bring us into His presence as His children. What He seeks is the "bringing of many sons to glory" (Heb. 2:10). He has invited us to share in His glory!

and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. (Romans 8:17)

Thus, the goal of our life is clearly defined in terms not of what we achieve in this life, but where we spend the next life!

The fact that there is hope of being with God is proof that we were made for a relationship with God.

Conclusion: Through life, human beings struggle to “find themselves”, coming to terms with who we are, why we were made, and what we should do with our lives. It is truly sad to know that many people never understand the answer to this basic question of life.

We define who we are in terms of this world: who our parents are, where we work, what we achieve. But the reality is that none of those relationships are ultimately enduring.

The faithful Christian has settled one of the most important and nagging questions of existence. It should give us the greatest assurance and joy to know that we have found who we are.

But at the same time, it should help us keep everything in perspective. The quality of our life is not ultimately determined by how much money we make, how many people know our name, how many friends we have. The real meaning of our lives is answer in one simple question—“What kind of relationship do I have with God?” For, “we were made to have a relationship with God!”