

# WHY YOU NEED THE CHURCH

## *The Purpose of the Church Is to Help People Fulfill God's Purposes for Their Lives*

*So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (Romans 12:5, ESV)*

### **Having a church family will help you:**

- Center your life around God (**worship**)
- Connect with other believers (**fellowship**)
- Cultivate spiritual maturity (**discipleship**)
- Contribute something back (**ministry**)
- Communicate God's message (**mission**)

## *What's Driving Your Life?*

*And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:17, ESV)*

*But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. (Psalm 33:11, NIV)*

*(28) "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28–30, NIV)*

*(34) So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, (35) but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34–35, ESV)*

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person asks is, “What is the meaning of life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways.

- Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions**.
- Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure**.
- Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige and power**.

**But real happiness comes from understanding my purpose in life.**

## *Why Am I Here?*

1. **God created me to \_\_\_\_\_ me.**

*The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. (Jeremiah 31:3, NIV)*

*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love (5) he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. (Ephesians 1:4–5 NIV)*

2. **We were created to \_\_\_\_\_ a personal relationship with God and to**

\_\_\_\_\_ **all of the rest of God’s creation. This makes us special.**

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:27–28, ESV)*

*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. (1 Timothy 6:17, ESV)*

3. When we know and love God and live in harmony with his purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives.

<b>CLEAR CONSCIENCE</b> Romans 8:1	<b>LIFE AND PEACE</b> Romans 8:6	<b>HELP WITH WEAKNESS</b> Romans 8:26
<b>PURPOSE</b> Romans 8:28	<b>CONFIDENCE</b> Romans 8:31	<b>SECURITY</b> Romans 8:39
<b>POWER AND STRENGTH</b> Philippians 4:13	<b>FULFILLMENT</b> Philippians 4:19	<b>FREEDOM</b> John 8:32, 36

### *What's the Problem?*

1. People have a natural desire to \_\_\_\_\_ and to ignore God's principles for living.
2. The Bible calls this attitude \_\_\_\_\_.

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6, ESV)*

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8, ESV)*

**Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of his will.**

*Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. (Isaiah 59:2, ESV)*

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23, ESV)*

**When our relationship with God is not right, it causes problems in every area of our lives—marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.**

**“WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.”**

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. (Proverbs 16:25, ESV)*

**Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know him.**

## What's the Solution?

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

JOHN 14:6 (NIV)

God himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The way is in the person of Jesus Christ.

### **"JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM."**

*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

ROMANS 6:23 (NIV84)

**God did this for us because he loves us and wants us to know him.**

*God demonstrated his love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.*

ROMANS 5:8 (AP)

*God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind.*

1 TIMOTHY 2:5 (TLB)

God has already done his part to restore our relationship to him. He took the initiative. Now he waits for each of us to individually accept what he has done for us.

## What Does God Want Me to Do?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.*

1 JOHN 1:9 (AP)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again on Easter and is alive today.