



That's a Great Question!

Does life have a purpose? (Ecclesiastes 12:8-14)

By Pastor David Hillis, 12 April 2015

BIG IDEA: If life is random and the world is just a continual set of happenstances with no intelligent design behind them, then life by definition cannot have purpose. But if God exists and created it all, then life then by definition does have purpose (the purpose of its creator), and our goal in life should be to discover it for ourselves.

Option 1: Life has no purpose.

- If life is random, if there is no thoughtful God behind it all, then life cannot have a purpose. Life itself cannot have a purpose if it had no creator to give it one. But if you are a person of faith, the answer to the question is a matter of figuring out what the creator had in mind when creating life, when creating us.

Option 2: Life has whatever purpose its creator had in mind.

- Whether we are rich or poor, African, Asian or American, we all have something inside us that yearns for value and meaning in life. No matter our upbringing or belief system, deep within our souls, our psyches, is a need for purpose. Faith gives us a way to actually understand our purpose in life.

How Christian faith answers the question:

1. To come to know and fall in love with God (Ecclesiastes 12:13, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:37-39).
 2. To discover and live out how I uniquely reflect God's glory the best (Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13-16, 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- We as humans were created by God in His image, His likeness, to be a reflection of Him, of His glory. He carefully and thoughtfully makes each one of us in the womb and our entire lives mapped out for us before a single day has passed. He gives us each unique gifts so that we can reflect God's glory to Him and to others.

Next Step Questions:

- Do you believe your life has a purpose? If so, why do you think God uniquely created you to be here?

For further study/reflection this week:

1. Read Ecclesiastes this week and wrestle with King Solomon's view on the purpose of life. See if your perspective turns out to be the same, or very different.
2. If our primary purpose is to be in relationship with our creator, what are some ways you can pursue that purpose?
3. Go to exploregod.com/meaning-and-purpose and wrestle with this question further.
4. Join us this Wednesday night at 6:30pm for our first open discussions as we reflect in part on this question and hear each other's perspectives.
5. Determine what your toughest questions are, and submit them to us at david@graceticuson.org.