



FINDING PURPOSE IN LIFE

Our Primary or Ultimate Purpose:

- Transcends all other activities or endeavors we may embark on in life. That is, it forms a common theme and is a compelling drive regardless of any other roles we may take on in life.
 - Is related to our ultimate "destiny".
- Is likely to be that thing for which we have a deep inner passion or drive.
 - It may even manifest as an unresolved emptiness; a perpetual search for fulfillment.
 - We may undertake several roles and careers in life in our attempts to satisfy that inner drive.
 - Frequently our "Life Purpose" becomes the focus of our chosen profession or is realized through involvement in some cause or volunteer organization that we feel is worthwhile.

Yet We Are Called To A Common "Purpose" - A "Duty" - In Life

Regardless of our sense of there being one ultimate life purpose, there are at least four things that we are expected to do - or given "charge" to do in this life.

(1) To procreate. We are to perpetuate the species and thereby ensure the continuance of the human race, barring any unforeseen apocalyptic catastrophe. (Gen.1:27 -28; 9:7)

(2) To care for the earth; to have dominion over it BUT with the proviso of a due diligence to take care of it for future generations. (Gen.1:29; 9:1-3)

(3) To teach and disciple (teaching through lifestyle modeling) the next generation in terms of faith, morals and values (Matt. 28:19-20). Socrates, the Greek Philosopher, saw the twofold duty of man as being very much (a) self-examination and (b) the passing on to the next generation five essential virtues : courage, moderation, piety, wisdom and justice.

(4) TO LOVE :

By first loving God (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37); and then

By loving our neighbor as we would ourselves (Matt.22: 39); and moreover

By loving our enemies and those who are difficult to love (Matt.5:43-48) ;

Plus we are to

Do unto others as we would have them do unto us (the Golden Rule as given in Matt.

7:12) by putting our faith into action so that those in need are cared for (James 2:14-26 [

Faith without loving deeds is dead])

All of the above - which are really founded in our "Faith" or "Religion" - are the foundation, framework and backdrop, of morals, ethics and value system by which we "act out" our various life roles, career and occupations. They are the things that shape "character" and character is that which ultimately becomes "Who we are" regardless of circumstance.

SO IN SUMMATION, our purpose in life is :

- (1) To honor and respect God (or The Higher Power) who created all things.
 - (2) To train -up the next generation by both instruction and lifestyle modeling, instilling qualities that will insure that what we value in terms of civilized values and morals are carried on into the future.
 - (3) Care diligently for what God has entrusted to us ; and
 - (4) Love our fellow humans in deed and word.
 - (5) Find that special thing in life that motivates. Find that mission or career that ignites a passion within and that seems to fill a void that was hitherto empty and driving us on in the search.
- Maslow calls this : self-actualization, Scripture refers to it as a "Calling".; others have referred to as "Destiny".

Such "Self-Actualization" is really "self-realization" : the achievement of our full potential accompanied by a sense of fulfillment and intuitive knowing that " I've arrived". However, lest we rest on our laurels, we may well look around and decide to take on yet a new challenge or a new cause. In this process of continued searching , the integrating theme, the "thread" if you will- that runs through the tapestry of our lives and gives shape to our actions, is our values, our sense of justice (and disdain for injustice) and perhaps even our desire to leave a lasting mark - a notable change - on the pages of history.

===== // =====

