

# Loving yourself

## #9 Living with Purpose

Many people talk of “finding their purpose in life” as if somehow it was lost.

For others, “purpose” seems always to be beyond their reach. It stands as some point in the future and is never realised today.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Jeremiah 29:11

For others it’s all too hard and confusing. God has a plan and a purpose for my life but does not seem to be letting me into the secret.

*Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.*

Proverbs 19:21

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.* Isaiah 55:8

Confused?

How do you understand your purpose in life?

**The Westminster Confession of Faith** is a [Reformed confession of faith](#), in the [Calvinist](#) theological tradition. Although drawn up by the 1646 [Westminster Assembly](#), it became and remains the 'subordinate standard' of doctrine in the [Church of Scotland](#), and has been influential within [Presbyterian](#) churches worldwide.

### Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, [a] and to enjoy him forever. [b]

[a]. Ps. 86:9; Isa. 60:21; Rom. 11:36; I Cor. 6:20; 10:31; Rev. 4:11

[b]. Ps. 16:5-11; 144:15; Isa. 12:2; Luke 2:10; Phil. 4:4; Rev. 21:3-4

### Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New

Testaments, [a] is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him. [b]

[a]. Matt. 19:4-5 with Gen. 2:24; Luke 24:27, 44; I Cor. 2:13; 14:37;

II Pet. 1:20-21; 3:2, 15-16

[b]. Deut. 4:2; Ps. 19:7-11; Isa. 18:20; John 15:11; 20:30-31; Acts 17:11; II Tim. 3:15-17; I

John 1:4

### 1. To reflect God’s image

Since we have been made in the image of God, our life’s purpose is to reflect the image of God. We do that by being “true to label”. (Romans 1:20-22,)

By **being** who God made us to be (Psalm 19, Matthew 5:14-16)

- In what ways are you **being true** to who God created you to be?
- In what ways are you **not being true** to who God created you to be?

### 2. To engage in the work (redemptive work ) of God. By **doing**. . .

a. Care for creation (Genesis 2:15)

b. Care for people

“this is to my Father’s glory that you bear much fruit . . . Love each other” (John 15:9-17)

In what ways are you **doing** the work of God in care for creation and love of others?

### 3. Always in context

One of the errors of “purpose” is that we have connected purpose with vocation or accomplishment. If a person is a doctor or nurse we say they have found their purpose in life, or if they have achieved significance, they have purpose. This understanding is elitism and couldn’t be further from the truth!

*“Each one should test his own actions. **Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.**”* Galatians 6:4-5

Loving yourself means embracing your purpose right here, right now, to be the person you are (not the one you are not) and to engage in God’s work in the world.

You can do that!

You don’t have to wait till you get your life sorted out

“Be” and “Do”

Now!

What does your “purpose of life” look like at different stages of life?

For a full set of notes on this series of “Loving yourself” - contact [office@stcolumba.org.nz](mailto:office@stcolumba.org.nz)