

## What is life worth living for?

Often the question is asked, “Why am I alive?” or “what is the purpose of life?” “Why am I here?” Many people are tired of life, others are frustrated, yet others are confused and do not know why they are alive. We can go to the philosophers and ask this question but even they do not agree on what the purpose of life is. So we want to consider the question, “What is life worth living for?” and find the answer in God’s Word.

Recently I met a pastor who shared about his personal life. He was brought up in an alcoholic home and suffered a lot as a young man. There was hurt, anger and bitterness in his life and he could not forgive his parents. This resulted in building thick walls around himself, like a castle with the hang-bridge pulled up so that no one could enter his life. He was lonely and isolated and he allowed no one to enter his “castle”. He opened up to no one and people considered him a very private person. He testified about being changed by the power of the Gospel as he put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many people living today who do not let God into their lives neither do they allow other people into their lives. They are closed up, lonely, isolated from true friendship and fellowship and they know nothing about a life to the full which Jesus offers to us in John 10:10, **“The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”**.

So what is the purpose of life? Several thousand years ago Moses talked to the Israelites when he was 120 years old. This is what he said as recorded in Deuteronomy 30:19:

**“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your father, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”**

Life is first of all connecting with God. We are told to love the Lord, listen to His voice and hold fast to Him. God loves us and wants to talk to us and He wants us to obey His commandments. God spoke through His servant Moses to the people that they may **“listen and learn to fear the Lord and follow carefully all the words of His law”**.

(Deuteronomy 31:12)

How do we connect with God? How do we start a relationship with God? In Ephesians chapter 1 we read about this relationship with God. The key words to this relationship are repeated over and over again in this chapter. “In Christ” and “through Christ” is the only way we can be connected to God and establish a relationship with Him. Verse four tells it all, **“For He chose us in Him (Christ) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.”**

To be connected with God and have a relationship with Him is only possible through being born again. Born into God’s family. God is inviting us to be His sons and

daughters and this takes place when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive him as personal Savior. In John 1:12 we read , **“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”**

Life becomes worth living when God is our Father. He is a good and loving Father. He has promised to take care of us and He never ever breaks His word.

We receive the Lord Jesus Christ into our life by faith. We simply pray and invite Him to come into our life. The Bible says that at that moment we become the children of God. Our sins are forgiven and we are changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that **“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!”** New life, new thoughts, new attitude, new nature, new character, new purpose, new plans and a new life style. The old is gone; old nature, old character, old attitude, old thoughts, old plans, old life style and old habits. There is no room for stress, frustration and worry in this new relationship with God. In Romans 6:6 we learn that the old body of sin must be done away with. This involves repentance and turning away from sin.

Romans 6:11, **“Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you may obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.”** Every morning we must submit our bodies to the Lord Jesus Christ so that He can live His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the purpose of life for every believer. “Not I, but Christ”. Life becomes worth living when Christ is able to function in and through us. This is the reason we are told to die to self and deny self. The Lord Jesus came so that we may have a life to the full (John 10:10). Jesus Christ wants your life and my life to be a life of victory, an exciting life, a life of miracles, a life full of blessings and being a blessing.

In the Bible are over 700 names and titles of the Lord Jesus Christ. But the one title I like a lot is the title “a Friend of sinners”. He is a true friend. He is always available and He never leaves us or forsakes us. He is there when we need Him. He never ever disappoints anyone who put his trust in Him. He is our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King. He is all we need. He truly satisfies, provides and protects.

So we must learn to take down the walls we have built and allow God to enter our life and take full control. God is our Father. But God also wants us to be connected to the Body of Christ which is His Church. God is our Father and the Church is our mother. It is very important for you and me to let the draw bridge down and let other believers into our life. We do need each other. God never intended for you and I to be lonely and isolated. In Genesis 2: 18 God says, **“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him”**.

The Bible is full of examples of relationships and friendships. Life is worth living when there is connection with others, sharing and interaction.

The purpose of the Church is to help us mature and grow up in Christ. This is explained in Ephesians 4:11-16:

**“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be Evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach the unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and to become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead speaking truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”**

No person is intended to live and function by himself or herself. We need each other. We must be connected to others. This is the purpose and will of God. God is teaching us that **there must be no division in the body and that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”** (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)

How can this be accomplished?

1. We must be in Christ. We must be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. We must accept each other the way we are. We must feel accepted.
3. We must be honest with each other, open up and share pains, needs, bitterness, anger, hurt, frustration as well as the blessings and joys we experience.
4. We must be transparent with each other, confess faults and mistakes.
5. We must be committed to each other. Remember Romans 15:1-2, **“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each one should please his neighbor for his good.”**

Another good advice from the Lord related to being connected with each other is in Romans 12:15-21:

**“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. It is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord. On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him something to drink, in doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”** (The burning pangs of shame and guilt may lead to his repentance). **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”**

**What is life worth living for?** Life is worth living if we are connected with God and with His church. Life worth living consists of relationship with God, our maker and with one another as members of His body, the church. As members of the church we love and serve God and each other and thus fulfill the will of God. **The greatest service we can do for anyone is to introduce him or her to the Lord Jesus Christ so that they may also be connected to God to enjoy eternal life in heaven and new life here on earth.**