

## What Is a Life Purpose Statement?

- **It's a statement that summarizes God's purposes for your life.** A purpose statement is not a list of goals. Goals are temporary; purposes are eternal.
- **It's a statement that points the direction of your life.** Writing down your purposes on paper will force you to think specifically about the path of your life.
- **It's a statement that defines 'success' for you.** It clarifies your values.
- **It's a statement that clarifies your roles.** You will have different roles at different stages in life, but your purposes will never change. They are greater than any role you will have.
- **It's a statement that expresses your shape.** It reflects the unique ways God made you to serve Him through your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experience.

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**Take your time writing out your life purpose statement. Here are five questions you can consider as you prepare your statement:**

- o What will be the **center** of my life? What are you going to build your life around? Who are you going to live for? What would your life look like if God was the center?
- o What will be the **character** of my life? What kind of person will you be? What character qualities do you want to develop or work on? Look to the Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12) and fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22-23) as a starting point.
- o What will be the **contribution** of my life? How are you going to give back to God? What will be your ministry in the church? How will your SHAPE (spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experience) inform your purpose?
- o What will be the **communication** of my life? Who is God calling you to reach? Is there a specific community that you can share God's grace with? What are you passionate about?
- o What will be the **community** of my life? How will you demonstrate your commitment to other believers and commitment to the family of God? How will you practice loving others?

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**An example:** *"My life purpose is to love Christ, grow in Christ, share Christ, and serve Christ through his Church, and to lead my family and others to do the same."*

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**Some thoughts to consider as you write your statement:**

- **Give it time** - Pray, think about it, talk with close friends, and reflect on Scripture. Also realize you may make minor changes as time goes on and God provides more insight into your purpose.
- **Create a detailed purpose statement as well as a short slogan that you can consider daily.** The longer statement can be considered periodically, especially when change or big decisions are on the horizon. The shorter statement is your daily reminder.

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**When you are done**, place this statement in a location where you can find it easily. When you are making big decisions, refer to it as a guide for living into God's will. When you feel lost, reflect on how well you are living into the purpose God gave you and find direction. Regularly pray that God continues to reveal your purpose and gifts.

\*Ideas drawn from Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Life, Day 40.