

Life Under Construction:
“Purposely Involved”
Part 3

Intro: There are many messages in our world today that seem very innocent yet they have their root in a wrong belief. They sound wonderful, but they are actually built on a lie.

- There is a wrong belief that many believers in Jesus’ embrace. In fact, this lie is so accepted, anything contrary to it almost seems absurd. What is it? It starts in childhood when we tell our children; “You can be anything you want to be.” “You can do anything you want to do.” “You can chase whatever dream that’s in your heart.” I know many of you are thinking; “What’s wrong with that message?” “That’s a beautiful message to tell our children.” Are you sure? At the very least for followers of Jesus isn’t it incomplete?
- When we tell our children this, we are in essence telling them their life belongs to themselves and they can build their life with whatever purpose they desire. So, as followers of Jesus, is this message true? Does the bible support this message?

*I Cor. 6:19-20 “Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? **You do not belong to yourself,** ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” (NLT)*

Didn’t Jesus say the same thing: “*give up your own way, take up your cross and follow Me.*”

- So, as a follower of Jesus do I have the right to do whatever I want with my life without input from Jesus? NO. My life belongs to Jesus and discovering His purpose for my life should be the message and the pursuit.
- Self-centered purposes do not build a strong life. Self-absorbed purposes will make your life weak. Anytime self is the primary building material for your life you are creating a weak life. You’re building your life on the sand.
- Dream careers / dream jobs / dream houses / dream retirements do not build a strong life when the dream is all about yourself. Self is NOT a good life building material.
- Jesus calls His followers to build their lives with His eternal purposes not self-centered temporary ones. Thus, the phrase...”follow Me.
- There comes a time when we begin to understand that my life is more than me / my needs / my wants and dreams / even my immediate family. We need to be purposely involved with Jesus in eternal things. We have to stop building our lives with the temporary purposes of this world.

How do we get purposely involved with Jesus? I want to share 3 ways we do this.

1. Change your thinking

Eph. 2:10 "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (NLT)

3 ways our thinking must change.

- You are a masterpiece created by God

- Many of you simply devalue yourselves. Your thoughts are consumed with what you are not instead of who you really are. Despite our sinful brokenness, we are God's masterpieces. We are masterpieces in process. We're still being created, but a masterpiece none-the-less.
- You are not your own masterpiece. You are God's masterpiece. Notice the ownership issue here? You are not creating your own life. God is creating your life. Notice who the architect of your life is? God not you!
- If we are going to be purposely involved with Jesus we better know who we belong to and who is building our lives. Otherwise, we will continue doing our own thing.
- Say this together: "I am God's masterpiece." Turn to the person next to you and tell them they are God's masterpiece.

- You are uniquely created for His purposes

so we can do the good things he planned for us Purpose!

- What are His purposes? You are part of Jesus' purpose of global transformation. (We call it the Great Commission) You have a part to play in this cause. Everyone's part has its own unique expression (based on gifting / ability / passion) but becoming purposely involved in this mission in your unique way is a must.
- You are designed for more than simply a career. You were uniquely designed to be purposely involved as part of Jesus' transformational movement in this world. You are created and designed to help bring global change.
- Inside you is the ability to do the good things God has planned for you to do. Don't you want to discover these things? If you never believe God created you for this you will never pursue discovering it.
- Say it together: "I am created for His purposes." Turn to the person next to you and tell them: "You are created for His purposes."

- Your purpose was predetermined before creation

good things he planned for us long ago Do you see the forethought in this?

- The implication is before creation. Before the foundation of the world God knew you and saw how your unique design and contribution would matter in 2026.
- You are not an afterthought. You are not a mistake. You are part of the eternal plan of God. He knew you would be right here today listening to this message and hearing this truth.

- I don't know why God chose me to be a pastor in Molalla. But He did. I chose to believe this. How many lives would not have been impacted if I would have refused to believe God wanted to use just a simply farm kid from Molalla?
- That same question can be asked about you. This isn't a pride issue. It is a faith issue. You will never get purposely involved in the way God created you for until you change your thinking.

How can we expect to build strong lives unless we build them with the purposes that we were designed for? A tool that has a specific design used for something else usually wears out too soon or breaks. So do we! (**Illustrate:** haven't you ever used something it wasn't designed for?) Knife for a screwdriver.

We think we know ourselves well enough to determine our own purposes. The reality is only our Designer truly knows what He put inside each and every one of us. If we don't change our thinking, we'll never discover all there is.

2. Get involved in good deeds that point people to Jesus

Matt. 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, **let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.**" (NLT)

- Good deeds give us influential opportunities (I Peter 3:15)

- If all we do is live for ourselves, how do our lives give us any opportunity to talk about Jesus to others? A self-centered life only gives you opportunity to talk about yourself! A Jesus centered life naturally gives you opportunity to talk about Jesus.
- For example: When you go on a mission trip to Guatemala...
When you consistently serve somewhere (consistent service requires you to say no to other things and this creates opportunity. WHY?)
When we collectively bless our community – Food Pantry – BP buddies.
- When we live a Jesus centered life people will ask us why we do these things. They will ask why we live differently. Now we have a I Peter 3:15 opportunity. (explain)
- Being salt and life is easy if we live Jesus centered lives. It naturally creates Kingdom of God opportunities. It is impossible if we live self-centered lives.

- Good deeds fulfill our influential role in this world (salt and light)

- Our influential role does not come through arguing or convincing people we are right. I have never argued anyone into the Kingdom of God. Believe me in my earlier years I tried this a lot. (explain)

- Jesus said that it is our good deeds that people need to see not our good arguments. It is our good deeds that cause the unbelieving world to eventually see God and give Him praise not our good apologetics.

How are you involving yourself in good deeds that are pointing people to Jesus? Part of understanding our purpose in this life is to intentionally doing good deeds of salt and light. Are you?

- This is why we talk about serving opportunities here at Foothills all the time. It is NOT about filling slots it is about salt and light. It is about influence. It's about Kingdom purpose. It's about what we are created to do. It's about opportunities to share.
- Fall is a tremendous time to rethink some priorities. When serving opportunities are presented by your church our ears should perk up not shut down. We should have a bias towards Kingdom activity...Kingdom action...good deeds.
- If we are too busy to embrace our purpose of intentionally being salt and light then we are building our lives with the wrong material. Please understand I don't say this to be critical or create guilt. I am though trying to change thinking.

It is impossible for us to fulfill our purpose as a church of reaching 1000s of unchurched people unless we have an entire church embracing their role to be salt and light in this world. Can you imagine the influence for the Kingdom of God that could be experienced if we all lived this?

- What if we all simply decided from now until the end of the year, that each of us will bring one person with us to church and stay with them (explain). Let's be salt and light!
- If you're not engaged in any good deeds that can be considered salt and light, now is a great time to get involved somewhere.

3. Discover the potential of your gifting

This is connected to #1 and your design by God. I wanted to spend just a moment on it this morning. WHY? Being purposely involved and your gifting go together.

I Cor. 12:7 "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." (NLT)

- A spiritual gift was given to you to fulfill your design and purpose
 - Each one of you has amazing potential to make a difference in the lives of others. God put spiritual gifts in His people for this purpose. "*so we can help each other.*" Notice that even the gifts God put in us are not for ourselves but for the benefit of others.
 - You have something inside of you that needs to be discovered and expressed. WHY? Because you need this to experience fulfillment and the rest of us need your gift to help us grow. This is the design.
 - If you do not discover and use your gifts we both lose! This is why being purposely involved is so important. God created us to be interdependent on one another. We need each other to be all God wants us to be.

- Therefore, if you do not follow Jesus in this way it has a negative impact on me, (I need you) the church (we need you) and this world.
- Remember God predetermined what you should be doing in this life in partnership with Him and your gifting is part of this preordained plan.
- He knew that in 2026 this group could bring transformation to our community if all the gifts work together in unity toward this cause. 1000s of unchurched people really can be reached for Jesus. Everything we need to get this done is already here.

How do I discover this?

- Becoming purposely involved reveals your gifting
 - If we do not get involved serving, doing good deeds, meeting needs then our gifting lays dormant. It is through Kingdom activity where these gift manifest themselves.
 - You and I will never be able to experience our design by God without employing the gifting He put inside us. It's part of the package. Living in your gifting is part of what builds a strong life. You're doing what you were made to do.
 - We discover gifting through serving. Your gifting will lead you without you even being aware it. You will gravitate towards ministry that fits your gifting. The Holy Spirit is inside you and this is His role.
 - So don't stress out about your gifting. Get involved and you will eventually find yourself operating in your gift.

Are you building your life being purposely involved? Sometimes the good things we are doing can lull us into a spiritual complacency. Don't let good things we do be a substitute for the purposeful things we are called to do.

- Attending church is a good thing but it should lead you to be purposely involved
- Going to a class is a very good thing but it should cause you to be purposely involved
- Raising your hands during worship is good thing but even worship should motivate you to be purposely involved

Jesus invited us into a partnership with Him! Imagine this. You and Jesus working together making a difference in this life.

I Cor. 1:9 "God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (NLT) Not just for salvation – not only for relationship – but for purpose!

We build strong lives by being purposely involved with Jesus bringing transformation to this world. We are created for this, called to this, gifted for his and empowered to fulfill it. The question is will we build our lives with this? Will you build your life with a Jesus centered existence rather than a self- centered existence?