

Created for God's Purposes

March 1, 2026

Genesis 1:26-31, Psalm 8, Colossians 3:1-17

This morning, I want to talk about the Doctrine of Man: That is the human race, men and women, people like you and me. Who are we? What is our relationship to God, our creator? What is our purpose? That is the question that King David pondered as he penned the words of Psalm 8. He asks, "What is man that God even considers him?" We are a speck, seemingly insignificant compared to heaven and earth, of the worlds God created, and all of nature around us. Job asks a similar question in chapter 7:17. He is broken and beaten and is wondering about the meaning of life itself. Why should God care about his problems? He says,

"What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention?"

We wonder the same thing because we are broken, and as the apostle Paul says, we have fallen short of the glory of God. Why should he care about us? Yet, throughout the scriptures, men and women have had a significant role in God's story.

As Pastor and best-selling author Rick Warren points out in his book, The Purpose Driven Life, we are not an accident. The Scriptures suggest the you and I, and all of humanity, reflect God's greatest masterpiece. We were created in His image and given dominion over the whole creation. If you believe the

Scriptures, you and I represent the crown jewel in God's masterplan. Our creation had a three-fold purpose.

First, we were created as an object of God's love. It was love at first sight. From the very beginning, God loved us deeply. Not simply because we are so good, but because we are his own. We read in Jeremiah 31 these words to a broken people as he promises to restore them:

"I have loved you with an everlasting love..."

God loves us as a parent loves a child. I will never forget the day our daughter Rebecca was born. There we were in the birthing room and Lori is struggling and the labor is going along and suddenly the doctor says, "Here comes the baby. It's a girl. What's her name?" And from the first time I laid eyes on her I was in love.

That is how it is with God. "Henry Balckby, author of the book, *Experiencing God*, says,

"To be loved by God is the highest relationship, the highest achievement, and the highest position in life."

Genesis 1 ends with God looking at his creation in love, all that he had made and set under the authority of man, and he said it was VERY GOOD.

Second, God created us to love Him. It has been said that we have a God shaped hole in our heart that can only be filled with a loving relationship with our creator. And third, we were created to reflect his love in the world, like the moon reflects the sun's light.

So what went wrong? You and I know that things are far from perfect. We struggle sometimes to do the right thing. Even the greatest men among us, men like king David who penned those words in the Psalms, look at themselves and say, “Who am I? How can God see any good in me?” Here is the truth: This is what God intended us to be before we fell away. Then everything was corrupted and that’s when we turned from God and went our own way. We are going to talk about this in more depth next week but let me say this: God never stopped loving us and planning for us to live into our purpose.

Yet, even with the Fall, and all misery we brought into the world, God never stopped loving us. The greatest demonstration of that love was in God sending his son to die in our place. As it says in Romans 5:8,

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

But I’m getting ahead of myself. You see, we were to know and love God and to do His will. Mankind alone stands out in all of creation to have the ability to do that. The 19th Century Baptist pastor Dr. F. B. Meyer says,

“Man was placed in the world like a king in a palace stored with all to please him, monarch and sovereign of the lower orders of creation.”

We were to have dominion, authority and control over the creation and to work alongside God. Meyer goes on and says we had it good. Man had...

“The sun to labor for him like a very Hercules; the moon to light his nights, or lead the waters of the earth in tides, cleansing its shores; elements of nature to be his slaves and messengers; flowers to scent his pathway; fruit to please his taste; birds to sing for him; beasts to toil for him and carry him; and man himself, amidst all the luxury, God’s representative, His vice-regent. This is man as God made him.”

We are not a mistake, a miscalculation on God’s part as many want us to believe today. We weren’t an evolutionary outgrowth, the result of natural selection. We weren’t just a by-product of the big bang theory and a random collection of atoms bouncing off of each other and coming together in the chaos. No. We came about as the result of a loving, thoughtful, creator who designed us and set our lives in motion so that we could live meaningful lives that would reflect God’s glory and achieve his purposes.

Created in the image of God, we have received some of his attributes. God gave us intellect so that we could think and feel and grow in wisdom and knowledge. We were created with complex brains that could reason and make decisions based on a set of variables. We have the ability to retain knowledge and memory. We can communicate with each other through distinct speech patterns. But the most significant gift we have is an innate sense of the spiritual. We can ponder our relationship to God. We can sense the divine presence and know God. We were made in such a way that we have the capacity for a relationship with our Creator. As a result we can praise God - Just like David, we too should say;

“O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Thy name in all the earth!”

Add to that what Paul says in his letter to the Colossians. If you want to honor and praise God, and that's what we were created for, we should set our hearts on things above. We should focus on those things that do that. After all, in Christ, we have been redeemed and set free from the curse of death, so that we can live for our original purpose.

It begins, and I like how he says it here in Colossians, "by putting to death," in other words, leaving behind in the tomb, all the sinful things like sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed and idolatry. These are the things that were part of our corrupted nature, the fallen man. But Paul reminds us that we were raised with Christ to new life. He goes on to say we need to rid ourselves of anger... That's a big one.

A lot of people are walking around angry these days. Just spend a few minutes on Facebook and you will dive into the depths of what Paul is warning us about... rage, slander, and filthy language. This is not behavior that glorifies God, even if you feel righteous indignation about something, and yet many Christians are engaging in it.

Let me say this: You don't glorify God when you posting angry comments about things, even if you are convinced you have the truth. Social media can be a tool of the devil to undermine our witness. I learned a long time ago that we need to keep our focus on Christ, as Paul tells us. In verse 12 he says,

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. "

People were drawn to Jesus, not by angry acts but by acts of compassion. They saw a man who cared about them and wanted the best life for them. You know it's kinda' funny... but we believe that God the father, God the creator, was shining through... God the son. The best way to bring glory to God is through love. Paul closes off this section with these words.

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I love how that verse ends. "Whatever you do... do it in the name of Jesus... giving thanks to God the Father.." That is what we were created for: To be loved by God, to love God with all our being, and to live according to his purposes and bring glory to his name." Amen

Next week we will talk about the doctrine of the Fall and the reality of the Devil. I hope you will be here.