

THE PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES (GEN. 1:27)

Introduction:

1. **Gen. 1:27** God created us in His image because He had a special purpose for our lives.
2. God created us to be His companions & friends forever!
3. God gives us many blessing to express His love including the gift of marriage.
4. God prepared a plan to forgive our sins and to receive us in heaven.

I. God Created Us to be His Companions & Friends.

A. God Created Man in His Image for a Special Purpose.

1. **Gen. 1:1-5** He created the universe and began to organize it with day & night.
2. **Gen. 1:6-8** He created the sky.
3. **Gen. 1:9-13** He separated dry land from the seas, & made plant life.
4. **Gen. 1:14-19** He made the sun, moon, planets, and stars.
5. **Gen. 1:20-23** He made fish and fowl.
6. **Gen. 1:24-27** He made land animals, then made man in His image!

B. "In the Image of God" Means Man Is Similar to God in Ways Allowing Us to be His Companions.

1. God is a spirit, not flesh & blood. Man is a spirit, though in a body.
2. God and man have intelligence.
3. God and man have the moral capacity to know right and wrong.
4. God and man have volition, the power of choice.
5. We can know, love, and serve God as His companions and friends.

II. God Gives Us All Blessings Including the Gift of Marriage.

A. God Made Plants and Animals for Our Use.

1. **Gen. 1:26** Man can use plants & animals to serve our needs. They are our stewardship.

B. God Supplied All Man's Needs in the Garden of Eden.

1. **Gen. 2:8-9** God put three kinds of trees in the Garden:
 - a. Trees for food.
 - b. A tree to perpetuate human life: Man could not die while eating its fruit.
 - c. A tree which allowed man to choose to obey or disobey God.

2. **Gen. 2:16-17** God created man to live not to die but warned sin brings death.

C. God Gave Man & Woman the Gift of Marriage.

1. **Gen. 2:18-25** God joined Adam & Eve as companions in marriage.
2. God made one man and one woman to be married companions for life.
3. **Heb. 13:4** Marriage includes God's gift of sexual companionship.
4. **Col. 3:18-21** God structured the family relationship to bless all its members.
5. These things violate God's plan and destroy His blessings:

- a. Fornication: sex without marriage
- b. Polygamy: multiple marriage partners
- c. Adultery: married people having sex outside their marriage
- d. Homosexuality: same sex partners (male with male; female with female)
- e. Divorce: repudiating & leaving a mate
- f. Abortion on demand: killing babies in the womb to avoid loving and nurturing them
- g. Conceiving babies without marriage
- h. Abuse: verbal, physical, and sexual abuse in a family

III. God Made a Plan to Forgive Our Sins and Save Us in Heaven.

A. Satan Lies to Lead Men to Disobey God.

1. **Gen. 3:4-6** Satan presented sin as a blessing which is a lie.
2. **Gen. 3:8** Sin destroyed man's fellowship with God, cursing him with guilt & shame.
3. **Gen. 3:22-24** Man was put out of the Garden, could not eat from the tree of life—he began to die.
4. **Rom. 3:23** We also are deceived and sin: Disobedience destroys our companionship with God.

B. God Promised to Send a Savior to Redeem Us.

1. **Gen. 12:1-3** The Savior would be born from Abraham's family in the land of Canaan.
2. **Isa. 53:5-6** The Savior would die as a sacrifice for our sins.
3. **Jn. 3:16** Jesus Christ is the Savior who died for our sins.

C. Jesus Christ Offers Salvation to All Men.

1. **Mk. 16:15-16** We receive salvation by obedient faith:
 - a. Believe + Baptized = Saved
 - b. NOT: Baptized = Saved + Baptized
 - c. NOT: Believe = Saved + Baptized
2. **Matt. 28:18-20** He teaches us all things needed to lead us to heaven.
3. **Acts 2:41, 47** Christ adds us to his church when we submit to him in baptism.
4. **Rom. 16:16** People saved by Christ worship him in churches of Christ, not in churches formed by doctrines of men rather than by Christ.

D. Christ Teaches Us a New Life as Friends of God.

1. **Gal. 5:19-23** We learn to replace the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit.
 - a. Works of the flesh are sins which separate us from God.
 - b. The fruit of the Spirit are attitudes and conduct taught by God's Word.

E. In Heaven We Will Be Companions and Friends of God Forever!

1. **Rev. 21:1-4** God will bless us as His special people in heaven.
2. **Rev. 22:1-2** We will love and serve God forever with access to the tree of life.

Invitation:

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þ. 2 The Purpose of Our Lives

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