

Title: **Why Are We Here?**

Text: Acts 2:42-47

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Theme: Unleashing Our Potential

Resource: "Here Today, There Tomorrow" by Gary McIntosh

Philosophically human beings, what we may call mankind, have struggled to understand why it is that we exist. What is our purpose on this earth?

According to "Yahoo Answers" from 11 months ago the question was "Why do we exist?"

- Randaal says, "The question of why we exist has been answered by theologians, philosophers and scientists, all with different answers. To such a question, there honestly can be no single answer as to WHY. ... I don't know, and I can't know. Everything I'll ever say or think about anything regarding the "why" will be based purely on belief.
- Ghulaam Rafaati says, In the Holy Quran Allah says that WE BELONG TO ALLAH AND TO HIM ALONE IS OUR RETURN. Life is an opportunity for you to prepare yourself for the destination and that destination is ALLAH.
- "Some would have society believe that a designer manufactured people to process codes of program, failing that the rejects would be discarded like broken machines..."
- Nick Latham wrote, "That's the 1 Trillion-Dollar-Question. Personally I think we are here by accident/coincident and there is no purpose of us being alive."
- One lady wrote, "Reproduction to keep mankind existing its what everyone is for."

- Dr. Manhattan writes that we were distilled from chaos
- We each have a specific function, people to meet and love and truth to learn and teach.

\* Timothy Dalrymple, 34, editor of Patheos.com, was the NCAA's top-ranked gymnast as a sophomore at Stanford until a broken neck ended his career. In God's providence, that disaster opened up opportunities for him to deepen his faith and also earn a Ph.D. at Harvard.

While lying on his back, looking up at the ceiling, Timothy had plenty of time to think.

He says that even as a child "I had a philosophical bent and spent a lot of time thinking about all sorts of ultimate questions, especially the question of whether there is some sort of existence beyond death. I don't know which one I found more terrifying, that there would be some existence or that there would not."

Yet, when asked what helped him to grow in his faith, philosophical questions gave way to a personal relationship and example.

"The example of my father," Dalrymple replied, "not only a pastor but a genuinely loving, faithful, righteous person, helped. I saw in his life something undeniably true that I couldn't explain away."

As a believer in Christ, I have to believe in more.

### ***Genesis 1:27***

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

### ***Psalms 8:5***

*You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*

**Psalm 8:6**

You made him ruler over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under his feet:

**Acts 17:28**

'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As  
some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

**Romans 8:14**

Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are  
sons of God.

**Romans 8:17**

Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of  
God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his  
sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**Col. 3:11**

Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or  
uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ  
is all, and is in all.

That explains who I am as a person, but what about a  
church family? Why are we here?

**Matthew 28:19-20**

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and  
of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I  
have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to  
the very end of the age."*

\* Discipleship is a two-fold assignment. We are to draw all  
people toward Christ and teach them to obey everything that  
Christ has taught us.

**I. Mission is the biblical reason a church exists.**

\*As long as there are people living without a personal relationship with Christ and others who need to grow in their walk with Christ our mission will still be viable.

### *Acts 2:42-47*

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

*<sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common.*

*<sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

1. Teaching
2. Fellowship
3. Stewardship
4. Ministry/Service
5. Worship
6. Evangelism

## **II. Mission is not a list of our church's programs, but a statement of the purpose of the programs.**

1. Not offering Sunday School but educating children, youth and adults.
2. Not hosting musicals and dramas but evangelizing our community.
3. Not offering small groups but discipling adults.
4. Not offering counseling but caring for hurting people.

\* I had a very godly man challenge me. He said that as congregations we are to be about people and process not programs and products.

- A. This is not saying that there is no value in the programs and products that we initiate and sustain.
- B. We are saying that our primary task or purpose is focused on people and how we help them discover Christ and grow in Christ.

\* [Here's your heart-warming video for the week.](#) An 8-year-old girl was singing the national anthem at a recent hockey game when her mic suddenly cut out. The little trooper kept on belting it out, but no one could hear a thing. That is, until the whole crowd joined in and helped her finish. At the most general level, it's a nice little look at helping someone in need. But it is really a look at what the church does in life.

### **III. Why do you think that our congregation exists?**

- A. Is it so that we have a place where we can hang out with our friends?
- B. Is it so that we can hear music that we like?
- C. Is it so that our children can learn about Jesus?
- D. Is it so that our youth will fill their lives with time spent around other Christians?
- E. Is it so that we can help our young adults find help for their marriages and help for parenting issues?
- F. Is it so that our seniors can find profitable ways to spend their expendable time?

\* Actually, the answer is yes. All those actions can be the result of a Christ-centered ministry to people. They are the programs and ministries that flow out of our intentional relationships with people.

#### IV. There is a much simpler way to say it.

##### *Mark 12:29-31*

*"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

A. Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

B. Love our neighbors with the same passion that we care for ourselves.

**Conclusion:** Do we mean it?

\* The folks at Gallup have been releasing a series of articles on how religiosity relates to a person's well-being. Studies show that "Jews have the highest well-being of any of the faith groups." Guess who has the lowest? Protestants. Actually, to pour a little salt in the wound, guess who has a better well-being rating than Protestants? Atheists and Agnostics.

Atheists and Agnostics know what they don't believe in.

As Christians we claim to know what we believe but do we live it? Do you know why our church exists? Do you know why we are here?

It should give you peace and security not fear and anxiety.

What do you want to do about it?