

Changing the Purpose, Changes Everything (3)

David Halbrook

Human life has a unique *purpose*, but lives are bruised and scarred because the purpose is crowded out of busy lives, doubted by skeptical minds, and ignored by minds hostile to truth. These lives need to read *Ecclesiastes* to learn life's purpose is to fear God and keep His commandments and the problems of lives lacking this purpose (12:13-14).

When a busy schedule leaves God in second or third place, the purpose of life becomes to feel better, laugh more, be comfortable, make more money, enjoy rare entertainment or items to please or impress self or others (Eccl. 2). It fails.

A skeptical mind doesn't know where God belongs, so this life is spent experimenting, never finding a clear answer to life's purpose. They seek happiness pleasing themselves but find themselves alone (Eccl. 4:8; 6:7). They seek happiness pleasing others but find this impossible (Eccl. 5:11; 9:13-15).

A mind hostile to truth declares that the purpose of life is what each person decides for himself but unchangeable and unforeseen events interrupt their purposes (Eccl. 3:1-9; 9:11).

Whatever the subject (life, baptism, Lord's Supper), if we change God's purpose, then whatever we do will fail.

Good brother days to receive greetings from the city of Conway, wishing that this well at all, only I am writing this letter to thank you for the help you gave me, I ask in prayer to our God bless you greatly to each you and the work you do in that city. once again thanks for everything. God bless you (Jan. 9, 2015; from Ben Calderon, a Spanish-speaking evangelist in Conway, to whom we recently sent one-time support)

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Noleka Hopper, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, and new Christians among us.

Join us each Sunday at 10AM (classes), 10:45AM, & 5PM and Wednesday at 7PM.

Church of Christ—Quail Valley
4104 E. Harrison St.
Batesville, AR 72501
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelist:
David Halbrook 569-4491

The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

church of Christ--Quail Valley

February 1, 2015

WWW.QVCOC.COM

Can You be Trusted?

Steve Klein

Trust. It is a vital part of every positive human relationship. Think of the problems that come when nations cannot trust each another, or when suspicion and doubt clouds the relationship between parents and children, husbands and wives, citizens and governments, or bosses and employees. How many wars, separations, divorces, revolutions and strikes could be attributed primarily to a lack of trust? Surely we could fill the world's oceans with the tears of bitterness and pain that have streamed from the eyes of people who could not trust each other.

"Well, yes," you say, "Lack of trust ruins a lot of good relationships, but the solution is simple; we should all just decide to trust each other!" Really? Do you think the United States should just go ahead and trust the governments of Korea and Iran with all the nuclear weapons they want? Should citizens whose government has been oppressive and murderously violent continually trust their government to do the right thing? Should the boss give the combination of the safe to the employee who has been caught stealing? I think you see the problem. Trust is not something that can or should be extended to people who have shown themselves to be unworthy of it. Most of the time there is a reason for a lack of trust.

The Bible shows clearly that those who break trust are responsible for causing the pain and problems that a lack of trust brings. Trust-breakers often want to place the blame on others and seek pity for themselves. But frankly, it is hard to feel sorry for the teenager who complains "My parents don't trust me" after his parents have found drugs in his room, or an unpaid speeding ticket in the mail, or a beer can in the floorboard. Those who have been untrustworthy need to bear their own reproach, face the consequences of their own actions and (if they wish to be accepted by God and trusted again by their fellowmen) repent and take appropriate steps toward rebuilding trust.

Here are some things that those who have broken trust must face up to:

- They've caused pain for others. It hurts to count on someone who can't be counted on! "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint" (**Proverbs 25:19**).
- They have created their own problems. "The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust" (**Proverbs 11:6**). "Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard" (**Proverbs 13:15**). "He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known" (**Proverbs 10:9**).
- Their lack of faithfulness and fidelity is disgusting to righteous people. "I look on the faithless with loathing, for they do not obey your word" (**Psalms 119:158, NIV**).
- People have good reason not to trust them in other areas. Unfaithfulness in one area indicates a tendency to be unfaithful in other areas. In **Luke 16:10**, Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much" (see also **Jeremiah 9:1-5**).
- They must commit themselves to rebuilding trust by making full confession of their unfaithfulness, seeking forgiveness and changing their behavior. Rebuilding trust takes a lot of effort on the part of the one who has been unfaithful. When one who has behaved in an untrustworthy way attempts to hide part or all of what he has done, or minimizes it in any way, it becomes very difficult to renew trust. Look at what God instructed Israel to do to rebuild their relationship with Him after they had been unfaithful. "But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me . . . if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt; {42} then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land" (**Leviticus 26:40-42**). The restoration of Israel to a good relationship with God depended on her willingness to humbly acknowledge her guilt.

Trust is such a precious thing. If you have it in the vital relationships of your life, do everything you can to maintain it. Be faithful. Be true. Be honest. If you've been unfaithful, untrue, or dishonest, do all within your power to restore the trust. You'll be glad you did.

What Can I Do?

Heath Rogers

Sometimes brethren feel like there is not much that they can do in the Lord's work. Sometimes they look at themselves and only see limitations: lack of finances, lack of formal education, inability to speak before groups, old age, lack of experience, poor health, etc.

The practical book of James tells us there is much we can do, if we will just do it! Read through the short epistle, and look for the simple little commands that are given to all of us.

What can I do? I can...

- Face my trials with joy (1:2).
- Pray for wisdom (1:5).
- Understand how temptation works, and overcome it (1:12-15).
- Thank God for every good and perfect gift (1:17).
- Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (1:19).
- Receive the word of God with meekness (1:21).
- Be a doer of the word, and not a hearer only (1:22-26).
- Help those in need (1:27, 2:15-16).
- Keep myself unspotted from the world (1:27).
- Be impartial in my dealings with others (2:1).
- Treat all visitors with love and respect (2:2-9).
- Show mercy to others (2:13).
- Perfect my faith with my works (2:14-26).
- Control my tongue (3:1-12).
- Show my meekness and wisdom in my good conduct (3:13).
- Sow the fruit of righteousness in peace (3:18).
- Stop seeking friendship with the world (4:4).
- Draw near to God and humble myself in His sight (4:8-10).
- Stop judging, speaking evil of, and grumbling against my brethren (4:11-12, 5:9).
- Realize the frailty and uncertainty of life (4:13-16).
- Do what I know I ought to do, lest I sin (4:17).
- Remember that all sin will be punished by God (5:1-6).
- Be patient (5:7-11).
- Be a person of my word (5:12).
- Pray when I am suffering, sing when I am cheerful (5:13).
- Let others know when I am sick (5:14).
- Pray for others (5:16).
- Restore erring brethren (5:19-20).