



Fundamentos

LESSON 58

Foundations Curriculum

A Family for the Father

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Introduction

A Family for the Father

In this fifty-eighth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we will begin a new cycle: God's Eternal Purpose.

This cycle aims to answer a very important question: What did God want when He created man? Other lessons will follow to help complete the answer.

Besides understanding well God's purpose, we will also clarify what God's purpose is not.

1) What Was God's Purpose in Creating Man? There Is a Common Mistake

We have all already been presented with this question, and many know the answer described in the Scriptures. God wanted a family of many children who resemble Jesus.

Most people who hear us are used to this answer and can see it in the Scriptures.

Many people, however, still cannot understand this. Nor can they see the greatness of this truth.

Let us talk about a very common mistake people make when trying to answer this question.

Many people think that God's purpose is to save man from eternal condemnation. This happens because of the fall of man recorded in Genesis chapter 3.

Man sinned and now needs to be saved. This is true. However, for these people, it is as if the Bible began in Genesis chapter 3 — specifically at the fall of man.

But the Bible does not begin in Genesis chapter 3. This is proof that God's purpose did not arise from the fall of man, or because of it.

God's purpose for man was already in God's heart before the foundation of the world. And He has not changed it.

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)

Notice this well: before the foundation of the world.

Let us think a little about the following argument:

If, before the foundation of the world, God's purpose had been to save man, then He would be an accomplice of sin, because He would need man to sin in order to fulfill His purpose. That would make no sense.

It would be as if God had said, "do not eat of that fruit," while actually wanting man to eat it and sin, becoming lost and in darkness. In this way, God could fulfill His purpose of saving man and show His great love.

This is a tremendous confusion!

God never wanted man to sin! He created him perfect, in His image and likeness, precisely so as to have him as a perfect son who would manifest His glory.

Without any doubt, salvation is part of God's process for reaching His purpose, for fulfilling it. But it is by no means an end in itself. Salvation is not the purpose!

Of course God wants to save all men.

We can see this clearly in the following texts.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

It is important to know what God's first intention was, what purpose God had in His heart when He created man.

2) What Was God's Purpose in Creating Man? A Perfect Man, a Great Family

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

When God made man, He wanted to have children with His image, with His nature, and with His life. God wanted to have a great family that would express His glory and authority on the earth.

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:27–28 (NKJV)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

God wanted a family.

Let us pay attention to some key words in the text above:

Purpose = God has a purpose

Predestined = we were created to have a destiny (a defined purpose)

Image of His Son = to be like Jesus

That He might be = So that. Once again the purpose appears

Firstborn = eldest son (example)

Many brethren = a family

In summary: God wants a family of many children who resemble Jesus.

But sin entered into man. There was a direct interference with the purpose. What happened when man sinned?

They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.

Romans 3:12 (NKJV)

The very word unprofitable leads us to understand that there was a purpose. Before, he was profitable; afterward, he became unprofitable.

Because of sin, man became guilty, a target of God's wrath, deserving of eternal punishment, cast out of the presence of the Lord, and without fellowship with Him.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

The problem was not only that man became guilty before God, but also that his very nature became corrupted and ruined. And with this, several consequences followed. Man lost the life and image of God. He became a different creature. He was no longer the same; he was a man dead to God and useless for His purpose.

And it was not only Adam who became useless. After he was corrupted, he had children in his own likeness and image.

And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

Genesis 5:3 (NKJV)

Now all of Adam's descendants became useless for God's purpose. The Word affirms that sin and death passed to all men, reaching even us, because all sinned.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

If man became useless, how does God have hope of accomplishing His purpose? He gives us a new life in Christ. God's hope is the life of Christ in us.

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

So has God's purpose changed? No.

What is God's purpose today? It is the same.

God wants a family of children who resemble Jesus. And now, through Jesus, the purpose has once again been restored.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

The text above shows us with great clarity God's purpose. We can define it this way:

A family. Unity.

As a family, we cannot live fighting, in opposition, or in rivalry. We need to live in unity. As we see in the book of Acts, all were of one heart; no one claimed anything as their own, they shared with one another, they lived from house to house, having fellowship, praying together, praising the Lord together, and continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. In short, they were a family.

Many children. Quantity.

The New Testament church grew in number every day. The church spread throughout the whole world at that time; it did not remain only in Jerusalem. They understood that God wanted children from every nation. And by spreading so far, it reached even us.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

Like Jesus in Character. Quality.

This is our calling.

From the very beginning, God's desire has been that His children become like His Son. The believers in the early Church pursued this calling with all their hearts. They sought to be meek and humble like Jesus, upright, truthful, honest, and holy.

Their greatest desire was to imitate Christ in every area of life.

They loved as He loved.

They served as He served.

They prayed as He prayed.

They proclaimed the gospel as He proclaimed it.

They cared for the sick, confronted the powers of darkness, and lived under the guidance of the Holy Spirit just as He had taught them.

Their lives reflected Christ so clearly that the people of Antioch gave them a new name:

"Christians" meaning *"little Christ"*.

The name meant **"those who belong to Christ"** or **"followers of Christ,"** and it reflected what others saw in them. Their lives reminded people of Jesus.

God's eternal purpose became our calling!

What began as God's eternal purpose has now become our calling.

God's purpose is no longer something we simply admire from a distance. Through Christ, we have been invited to participate in it.

What does this mean?

It means that God has not only called us to His purpose—He has also given us everything necessary to fulfill it.

Through the Holy Spirit, the very life of Christ has been placed within us.

God's calling always comes with His enabling. He not only calls us to fulfill His eternal purpose but also equips us to do so. Through His Spirit, we receive the grace and power to walk as Jesus walked.

As the apostle John reminds us,

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

1 John 2:6 (NKJV)

God has given us everything we need to fulfill His eternal purpose.

Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, He has not only called us but also empowered us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Now His purpose becomes our purpose.

It is no longer something we admire from a distance. It becomes the pursuit that shapes every part of our lives.

This purpose must take hold of our whole being.

One of the reasons Jesus came into the world as a man was to reveal the kind of life the Father desires. He became like us so that we might become like Him.

This is our calling.

To grow in the likeness of Christ.

To cooperate with the Father's purpose.

To participate in what He is doing in the world.

Because of this, every area of life becomes part of God's work of forming Christ within us.

Our family.

Our workplace.

Our relationships.

Our local church.

Even our difficulties.

The challenges we encounter are not interruptions to our discipleship; they are often the very means God uses to shape our character. As we learn to respond as Jesus would respond, we are gradually transformed into His likeness.

This transformation is never meant to end with us.

Those whom God forms, He also sends.

Those whom He teaches are called to teach others.

Those whom He discipled are called to make disciples.

Before Christ redeemed us, we were separated from God's purpose.

Now, through His grace, we have become useful in His hands.

The Father has invited us to participate in His work of reconciliation, making His Son known to the world.

What an extraordinary privilege!

God has granted us two remarkable gifts:

1. The privilege of participating in His eternal purpose.
 2. The privilege of becoming His fellow workers in accomplishing that purpose.
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CONCLUSION

In this fifty-eighth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we learned about God's Eternal Purpose — God wants a family of children who resemble Jesus. And this purpose already existed before the foundation of the world.

We then clarified a very common mistake that people (and even Christians) make in believing that God's purpose is to save man. Of course, God the Father wants to save man, and for that He sent Jesus, but this happened precisely so that the purpose would remain the same.

When man sinned, sin interrupted God's purpose. Now, through Jesus, the purpose has once again been restored. But it remains the same: a family of many children who resemble Jesus.

Moreover, in Christ Jesus, we are enabled to live out and accomplish this purpose — and to expand it throughout the world.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01 What changed in your life when you understood God's purpose?
- 02 Are you seeking for God's purpose to be fulfilled in your life?
- 03 Are you devoting yourself to cooperating with God's purpose in the lives of others?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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