

Series: Truth for All Time

On Life, Purpose, and Meaning

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Mary Craig, D.Min

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Craighouse Christian Fellowship



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People of every generation look at life and desire to know why they exist, to what end, for what purpose. They want their lives to have meaning, and significance.

The Westminster Confession of Faith answers the question “What is the chief end [purpose] of man” with this: “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

Human beings were created in the image of God, their Creator. Yes, Creator. Genesis 1. God has a plan, a purpose behind what He does. God set things up for human beings, starting with Adam and Eve in the Garden, to trust His wisdom, obey His commands, and be blessed or certain other things would bring certain consequences—death. The Adamic Covenant a/k/a the Covenant of Creation, was also a Covenant of Works.

Man was/is to have dominion and function much like a Vice-Regent. He was created to function as a free moral agent.

Genesis 1:26-28 –

²⁶Then 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.” ²⁷So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then 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.” NKJV

Today, too many nations demonstrate a lack of compassion, being nations that worship the creation and which bring upon themselves the judgment of God. As people flood into the U.S.A., we are experiencing increasing abuse, violence, and cruelty. Things are way out of hand, and perverted, causing many to wake up and be appalled at the abuse of the innocents, of the weak and helpless, of little children, of people at all stages of life, and of animals, birds, and all God’s creation. It is but another evidence of human beings failing to hear and heed God’s commandments. For example, work animals, like donkeys, are overburdened. There is no rest, no peace, no joy, no time to be healed.

With honor comes responsibility. God created the heavens and the earth and then made man, who was made in the image of God. Male and female, God created them. Man received God’s command to have dominion (not domination) over every living thing that moves on the earth. (Genesis 1:27, 28) As God rested on the seventh day from

His labors, He established the precedent for the Sabbath. (Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:8) God took the man, Adam, and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. Adam gave names to each living creature. (Genesis 2:15, 19-20) Clearly, as Adam was created to live in relationship with his Creator, so also Adam was to live in relationship with God's creation, the work of God's hands.

Adam's sin corrupted and disrupted the peace of God's good creation. Adam broke covenant with the Almighty, bringing just consequence upon himself and his posterity. By dishonoring God, by disdain of the word and will of God, by unbelief, by obeying a lie instead of truth, Adam brought upon himself and subsequent humanity the curse. The creation began to suffer. Adam's failure in his fundamental role as tender and provider would mean tension and discord rather than harmony and peace between him and the ground. The hostility of the breach which would place humanity at enmity with God, living alienated from the life of God, would bring creation into frustration, futility, a groaning for redemption.

Romans 8:19-21 states: For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility (frustration, vanity), not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Remember, the commandment was for humanity to have dominion, not domination. We especially are not to force creatures to do what God never intended for their being, purpose, and meaning; that's cruel. Example, forcing birds designed to be with other birds to live alone in a locked cage.

Adam heeded another wisdom. In doing so, he rejected Christ, the Wisdom of God. Human beings created in the image of God were not to dominate, exploit, harm, ruin, or destroy God's good creation. They are mandated to demonstrate the goodness, compassion, mercy, kindness, and grace of the Creator. Tend the Garden. Be fruitful and multiply. Bear fruit that remains. Replenish, not strip...

Adam had the capacity to hear and see God, to speak to and with God, to live in relationship with God. The disloyalty and disobedience of his unbelief corrupted the system, the good order of creation as God intended it. In dishonoring God, Adam fell from the honor given him by God in creation. Hostility and discord entered the system. With harmony and order countered by forces opposing the Creator God, God became the preserver of life, the One holding things together. (Colossians 1)

"Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep;

O Lord, You preserve man and beast." (Psalm 36.5, 6, NKJV)

God loves to create marvels. God is Lord of the creation. God speaks and creations result from the creative power of His Word. All of creation stands at attention ready to obey God's commands, except Adamic man. Creation is to marvel and praise the Creator. Everything that has breath is to praise the Lord (Psalm 150).

Creation lives in relationship with its Creator. Creation is not to be worshipped or served (Exodus 20.1-7), for to do so is to take the Name of the Lord, who is Creator, in vain. Creation stands separate from and distinguished from the Creator but in vital union with the Creator, who is the Author of all that exists. (John 1)

God purposed before He created the heavens and the earth to establish a plan of salvation, His way. The Father sent His unique Son to be the Federal Head of a new humanity. (Romans 5). Unlike the first Adam, Jesus as the Last Adam and Second Man, lives as the Incarnate Son of God in perfect relationship with His Father and demonstrates for us how to live in unbroken confidence and trust in the Source and Sustainer of all life and blessing. We are to rest and to let those under our dominion rest from labor (Mark 2:27). God counted His six days of creating “good,” and rested the seventh day. This sets the pattern for the Sabbath rest.

We are not to use the creation in opposition to the will of God, to exploit positions of power for personal advantage (Matthew 4.1-11). As the Father cares for the birds and for the flowers, much lower on the order of creation, those things that have not the intrinsic honor given to Man who was created in the image of God, so also He will care for us as we seek Him first and His kingdom. (Matthew 6)

Because of what man has done, all creatures are dependent on the restoration of a right relationship between God and God’s representative in the cosmos. The coming of Christ into the cosmos demonstrated God’s love for the cosmos, for His creation. God so loved the cosmos that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16). The Son, Jesus Christ, is God, the Infinite God-Man come to effect and restore Peace. We call it salvation, getting right with the True God, and getting it right in alignment with the Word of God.

God’s commands, plan, and purpose give meaning to life. Through Christ, and those who are the children of God through faith in Christ, the creation has hope for harmony, order, goodness, and love. Men and women, boys and girls, living in right relationship with God the Creator can bless and do good, honor and have regard for God’s cosmos, the creation, the work of God’s hands, by obeying His commands out of loyalty and allegiance to Jesus Christ, through faith working by love and enabled by grace. Those who truly believe might take note and consider this sampling:

1. Honor the Sabbath and extend the Sabbath rest to all who labor, both man and animal, even the ground and its yield that supply food. (Exodus 20:10; Exodus 23; Isaiah 58:13, 14; Isaiah 14, e.g.)
2. As the fallen ox was to be helped to its feet (Deut. 22:4) and the straying ox was to be returned to safety (Exodus 23:4; Deut. 22:1), and sheep and cattle need tending and care even on the Sabbath, so also caring and merciful intervention extends more so to people, even on the Sabbath, regardless of material advantage. (Matthew 12:11; Luke 13:15; 14:5)
3. Do not allow the unequal yoke. Oxen and donkeys were not to plow together (Deut. 22:10). Jesus invites being yoked to Him because in doing so we are yoked to One whose burdens are light and to One who gives rest to our souls. (Matthew 11) We are not to be yoked with Belial, with those hostile to the Creator God (2 Corinthians 6).

4. Do not muzzle the ox as it treads out the grain (Deut. 25.4). Those who labor, whether human or animal, are entitled to support from the benefits of their work. (1 Corinthians 9:9; 2 Timothy 5:18)
5. Regard the life of animals. Proverbs 12.10 says: "A righteous man regards the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."
6. Bring offerings of all your increase to the Lord that the Lord God may bless you. (Deut.14; Deut. 26; Malachi 3; 2 Corinthians 8, 9, e.g.) Be generous. (Proverbs 22:9, 16, 22, 23)
7. Present yourself (Romans 12:1, 2). Be transformed.

**I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
That you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is
your reasonable service [or spiritual worship]. Romans 12:1**

8. Serve the Lord God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything. (Deut. 28:47; Psalm 100)
9. Do not shed innocent blood, nor sacrifice to idols. "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man." (Genesis 9:5, 6) See also Leviticus 17, Psalm 94:21; Psalm 5:6; Psalm 55:23; Deut. 18; Exodus 23:7)
10. Do not overwork to be rich (Proverbs 23:4).
11. Bless the creation and the Creator, not as ones conditioned by the cosmos, but as ones sent into the cosmos by the Son to keep His word and commandment. (John 17:18; 20:21; 14:15, 23)
12. Be an instrument of Peace and Good will, giving glory to God by enjoying Him and the works of His hands. (Psalm 104; Psalm 19; Psalm 24, e.g.)
13. Love and cherish life. Be a good steward and fulfill the responsibility of your God-given honor as a child of the Almighty, redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb. (Psalm 33, Psalm 34:11-14; Galatians 5:22, 23; 1 Peter 4:7-10)

Whether we call it "awakening" or "revival," the Holy Spirit is on the move right now, especially in the lives of young people. We know certain generations have been targeted, the plan of evildoers being to terminate "useless eaters," to depopulate vast areas of the planet, and to bring even more people and places to poverty so they can be controlled by governments given to the desire to kill the Creator and take His place. We must be very careful now that we do not mock, blaspheme, limit, vex, etc. the Holy Spirit, who is the Life Giver, the Life Maker. The Holy Spirit applies what Jesus Christ has accomplished as Redeemer, as Surety of the Covenant of Grace, the only Mediator between the Living and True God and Man.

Jesus came into the cosmos to bring life and to bring it more abundantly (John 10:10). He calls us to a life of blessing, a life free of exploiting others for personal advantage, a life of giving, a life of joy. He calls us to sow seeds of life wherever we go, wherever He sends us in the cosmos. We are messengers of the good news. Wherever we are, we give hope and love and the hope of harmony and order to all creation.

Let's pray whenever and wherever we see abuse towards humans and God's creation. Let's join together in seeking forgiveness and grace from the Living God to repent for abuse, dishonor, disdain, disregard, and contempt for God's creatures/creation. And

let's preach, teach, and share this gospel of Jesus Christ to all creation, to every creature. Amen.

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Mary Craig, D. Min.

**“Go into all the world, and preach the gospel
to every creature .” Mark 16:15**



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