



## What is the meaning of life?

Whoa! Talk about deep questions! This is another question from one of our recent confirmands. I'm guessing it's also a question many more of you have pondered a time or two.

I answered it by having the class look up several passages from God's Word and then summarizing what God tells us about our purpose in life.

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* 1 Corinthians 10:31

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* Colossians 3:17

*An expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "*

Matthew 22:37-39

*Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."* John 6:28-29

Maybe a good summary of those passages (and lots of others) would be:

God created us to center our lives around Him, not, as usually happens, around ourselves. Trust Him. Love Him. Serve Him (and when we love and serve our "neighbors", we are really serving Him). When God is the center of our lives, we find true satisfaction. When "we" are the center of our lives, we'll never truly be satisfied, because we were not created to find meaning apart from God.

This paragraph from our devotion at a recent trap shoot also says it well:

We weren't made to enjoy life apart from our Creator. The book of Genesis shows us a major design feature about us as people: We were meant to find our significance, pleasure and acceptance in a close relationship with our Maker. God created us to be with Him... We are all created to need this closeness to God. From "In Pursuit" by Zeke Pipher

Our sin drove a wedge in the close relationship we were created to have with God. Jesus came to earth for the express purpose of restoring our relationship with God by removing that wedge, forgiving our sin. We accept that restored relationship by putting our trust in Jesus and seeking to follow Him. (That's why Jesus calls "believing in the One God sent" the "work" God requires. It is what brings us back to our original purpose of having a close, loving, trusting relationship with our Creator.)

Once we've accepted that restored relationship by trusting Jesus, we find meaning in life (our purpose) by serving Him and serving others.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)