

what is the meaning of life?

you asked for it | week two

post falls campus | june 18th & 21st | pat lessard



You Asked For It – What is *the* meaning of life?

Google tells me “*the* ultimate meaning of life is not a fixed answer you discover, but a purpose you create. It ultimately boils down to the meaning you give it, and that meaning is a deeply personal, ongoing pursuit that evolves as you live, learn, and grow.”

Is *the* meaning of life found in...?

- Family
- Happiness
- Accomplishments
- Success
- Pleasure
- Sports
- Doing good / being good
- Relationships

Jesus answers this question for us (indirectly) in Matthew 22...

Matthew 22:34-40 CSB

...an expert in the law asked a question to test him: “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

You will find the meaning of life – your life – by:

1. Loving God
2. Loving people

You will find the meaning of your life by... *LOVING GOD*

Matthew 22:37 CSB

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

Loving God is...

- a grace-fueled response unifying *phileo* (passionate brotherly affection) and *agape* (sacrificial obedience), positioning God as the soul's ultimate delight and supreme Lord.
- Simply put – to have God be your ultimate delight and your Lord.

Loving God is not...

- Just the good old days
- Romanticized relationship
- Box-checking mentality

How to cultivate our love for God?

- Get to know Him (John 17:3)
- Pursue Him (John 15)
- Wage war on competing loves

You will find the meaning of your life by... *LOVING OTHERS*

Matthew 22:39 CSB

The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Poor excuses for not loving others include, but are not limited to:

- "I'm an introvert"
- "I only love people I enjoy"
- "I love God, but I'm not a people person"

1 John 4:19-21 CSB

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And we have this command from him: The one who loves God must also love his brother and sister.

How to cultivate love for others?

- Know and grow in God's love.
- Build and invest in relationships
- Ask the Holy Spirit for help

For the non-believer...

- God is inviting you into a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

For the believer...

- Cultivate your affection for God. Don't settle for less than delight in the Lord and his full Lordship in your life.
 - Keep snipping out areas where your affection for God is being robbed
- Let your love for God overflow into how you treat others.
- Discipleship opportunities - invest in others knowing God and growing in their love of God, and growing in their love for others

