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## "What is the Meaning of Life?"

"Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." (Westminster Shorter Catechism)

- I truly love this catechism. However, there's a way to misunderstand this phrase, and find yourself trying to live this out all on your own.

Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV) "And he [Jesus] said to him, "You shall **love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**Main Idea:** We exist to glorify God by living out His Greatest Commandment:

- Love God
- Love Others

### Part I: Why Do We Trust God to Define Our Existence?

We trust God because He is the Creator.

- Last week, we discussed how Genesis (God's Word) is authoritative.
- Genesis 1:1 (ESV) "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
  - God created the entire universe and everything in it.
  - And He didn't create the universe according to the rules of physics, math, chemistry, and biology. He *invented* physics, math, chemistry, and biology.
- Psalms 139:13-14 (ESV) "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."
  - God *intentionally* crafted you cell by cell in the womb. You are the orchestration of one spirit + 37.2 trillion cells that God breathed into existence.
- Therefore, if we trust that God is our *intentional* creator, it means three things for our lives:
  - 1.) We can trust Him in what he says about purpose, identity, and relationship.
  - 2.) You are not here by accident; you were created for a purpose.
  - 3.) God defines our purpose in life.
    - While the Lord gives us liberty and freedom in our walk with Him, we don't get to just "make up" our main purpose in life. He already defined it as "loving God and loving others." It's both the **goal** and the **framework** in how we're meant to live our lives.
      - Your purpose isn't an occupation, feeling, or your reputation.

### Part II: Love God

Matthew 22:37-38 (ESV) "And he said to him, "You shall **love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment."

Loving God means to:

- **Know God** - Do you know the Lord as your Creator, Savior, and Lord? Do you know the gospel? (John 3:16)
- **Choose God** - Do you place the Lord in His rightful place as your *deepest* treasure and *highest* authority in life?
- **Cherish God** - Psalms 149:4 (NIV) "For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory."
  - Gary Thomas, in his marriage conference at Real Life, states "Love is the foundation of marriage, but cherishing is the jam. It's what makes it sweet."
    - Our relationship with the Lord is meant to be full of delight and joy.
  - Have you ever considered seeing your time spent with Jesus as worship instead of just obedience?

- That your morning devotional isn't a homework assignment, but a coffee date with the Lord of Lords and King of Kings?
      - Jesus wants you to spend time with Him. He delights in you! Delight in Him too.
- **Serve God** - 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

### Part III: Love Others:

Matthew 22:39-40 (ESV) "And a second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Loving others means:

- **Know others** - Genesis 2:18 (ESV) "Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
  - God designed us for relationship with others. Do you live a life where you know and are known by others?
- **Choose/Cherish others** - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ESV) "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."
- **Serve others** - 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

### Small Group Discussion Questions:

**Ice Breaker:** What is a dream or goal that you want to accomplish in the next five years?

1. What is the "meaning of life" according to the world and the people around us?
2. According to Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40, what is the purpose of life?
3. If the Lord is our Creator, what impact does that have on your purpose and identity?
4. Based on your daily life, if others around you were to guess your "meaning of life," what would they say?
5. What does it mean for you to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind?" (Matt 22:37).
6. What does it mean for you to "love your neighbor as yourself?" (Matt 22:39)
7. What is your next step this week?

