



Life Purpose Statement



Assembling a Life Purpose Statement

In the middle of a battle in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Indiana Jones is asked about his plan. "I don't know," he answers, "I'm kind of making it up as I go along." For most people, life is like that: an unpredictable adventure with no set destination or course to get there. From our activities, we conclude what our purpose has been. A wise planner begins with purpose, and then moves to activities.

What does Jesus' parable in Matthew 7:24-27 say about the foundation for living?

Steps to building a Purpose Statement

First you'll need to do some heavy thinking, praying, and writing. Use these questions as a worksheet.

1. Start from our common purpose as Christians.

Here are some verses to consider:

Ecclesiastes 12:13

... fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

Matthew 22:37-39

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 28: 18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Micah 6:8

...And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

John 15:12

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.



John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Colossians 1:28

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. Nothing in the rest of your statement can be inconsistent with Gods commands. You won't be successful in other goals if you ignore His purposes.

2. Who are you?

What is your marital status? Family plan? Occupational status? What special skills are you equipped with? These must all be taken into account.

3. What are your dreams?

God gives us special vision and aspirations about things we desire to happen. When they are in accordance with His laws, they can be a clue to His will for us.

4. What are your spiritual gifts, skills, temperament, etc?

We are all blessed with God-given attributes. Do you know yours? (See: <http://www.churchgrowth.org/analysis/index.php> for **Spiritual Gifts**; <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp> for **Analysis and Temperament / Personality**; <http://fivelovelanguages.com/> for your love language.)

5. What impressions are you gaining through prayer?

Don't plan without praying.



6. What do Godly friends say?

Their perspective is essential.

7. Now take the common purpose and integrate it with the other questions to begin to write a purpose statement.

(Create a rough draft.)

Your unique gifts, skills, temperament, etc.

Your career goals

Your family goals

Your personal goals

What Scripture verses has God used in your life to give you direction and purpose? Choose one that best characterises God's purpose for your life. Some call it your "Life Verse."



Be patient: this may take several re-writes over a period of time to refine and polish. Discuss this with some close personal friends. Talk to someone who has done this. Ask them to share their purpose statement with you and share how they arrived at it. Sign your name at the bottom of your statement. (If married, this should be done together.)

"A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul..." Proverbs 13:19

Below are samples of purpose statements from two different couples to give you some idea of how yours might look. Try to write your own in light of the specific gifts and unique calling God has entrusted to you. Remember these were developed over a period of time, re-evaluated periodically, refined, updated. So, just start simply.

LIFE PURPOSE STATEMENT

(Sample #1)

Life Purpose Verses

I Thessalonians 2:8

"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you were dear unto us."

II Corinthians 12:15

"And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you the less I be loved."

1. To devote my life, to and with my wife (as one), to see that every immediate member of our family becomes a godly Christian. This includes our sons-in-law, their wives (our daughters), grandchildren and grandchildren's children. We will spend time with them as a group and individually in the activities that promote godliness, spending our energy and resources as needed for the accomplishment of this.
2. Our home is given to us by God and shall always be available to Him for everything He wishes to use it for.
3. All our earthly resources belong to God and are available to Him. We are stewards (managers) to utilize these resources as we are directed by God. We will tithe regularly as a minimum. The major purpose of the accumulation of our money and resources is to continue our goals after we have gone to Heaven.
4. As much as is possible, we will direct our everyday work and play activities toward the CBMC purpose which we have been called to, and which we feel is synonymous with the Great Commission. Matthew 28: 19, 20.
5. We will seize every opportunity presented to us to share Jesus Christ as the only Savior and Lord and answer for the sin of mankind. We depend upon the Holy Spirit for our direction in these matters as we understand that this battle for people's souls is supernatural.
6. We are committed to the training of a few people personally as disciplemakers and leaders. Understanding that this takes a tremendous amount of energy and time, we plan 2-8 years with individual people that God entrusts to us.
7. We remain open to the Lord for every new learning experience. We desire to grow spiritually and realize that



God keeps us in a training program. It is our desire to be in this learning program until we are promoted to Heaven and our eternal promises.

8. We are learning to establish goals for each category stated and want the Lord to hold us accountable for setting and maintaining this LIFE PURPOSE statement. Each of these statements should be broken into segments reflecting both short-range and long-range goals. These should be checked monthly, noted for progress quarterly and updated for accuracy and accomplishment yearly. We will schedule regular time on a calendar for planning and prayer.

LIFE PURPOSE STATEMENT

(Sample #2)

My Purpose:

"Love the Lord my God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind...Love my neighbor as myself."

Matthew 22:37-38

1. Love the Lord my God with all my heart with all my soul with all my mind.
 - a. Make time daily getting to know and love God more intimately, through reading the Bible, prayer, memorizing, meditating and applying Scripture to every area of my life (spiritual, emotional, physical, spouse, children, work, leisure, friends, family, etc.)
 - b. Spend time daily with my wife and children getting to know God through family devotions, attending family conferences, Bible studies. Take each child through Operation Timothy when he/she is old enough and spiritually ready to receive it.
 - c. Worship and study with other believers at least weekly.
 - d. Ongoing, personal Bible study that deepens my understanding of and love for God in Scripture.
2. Love my neighbor as myself.
 - a. Take care of myself as a cherished, valuable creation of God Himself. This includes balance of physical exercise and nutrition, spiritual growth, emotional outlets of play, meaningful friendships and relationships, rest, work. I know that I depend upon God to fill up my tank in these areas so that I might give to others from a full, not empty, tank.
 - b. Love the "neighbors" God has put in my life: my spouse first, my children, my extended family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others. This includes spending quality and quantity time with each of them in getting to know each other, playing together, sharing Christ, meeting each other's needs, worshipping together.
 - c. Ask God to give me one person, of the same sex, that I can spiritually parent through Operation Timothy. Meet with him/her regularly in Bible study, and frequently for fun activities.
 - d. Give to my local church, missionaries, and Christian organizations as the Lord leads me.



GOALS TO FACILITATE A LIFE PURPOSE STATEMENT

EXAMPLES

	Goals	Purpose	Verse
FAMILY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read God's Word together daily and memorize Scripture 2. Spend time with spouse and children daily — education and sports 3. Eliminate television 	<p>To strengthen family bonds and put God's words in our heart.</p> <p>To educate our children in the ways of the Lord.</p>	Deuteronomy 6:6,7
SPIRITUAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To read through Bible in a year, using Daily Walk Bible 2. Increase our prayer time — maintain a prayer journal 	<p>To know God better, to understand His will for our lives, and to have a more abundant life.</p>	John 17:3
FINANCIAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To live within our budget 2. To get out of debt 	<p>To keep from increasing our debt and to begin laying aside the financial weights that hinder our life purpose.</p>	Proverbs 22:7
PHYSICAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ride the bike every weekday early in the morning 	<p>To maintain our health, lean bodies, and to be joyful and appealing witnesses.</p>	Hebrews 12:11
SOCIAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To stay active with Christian and non-Christian couples and friends. 2. To be on-time all of the time 	<p>To be effective salt and light, to reach others for Christ.</p>	Matthew 5:13