

**PP Cornerstone on Purpose: Love God by Exalting Him**

Part 1-Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (p. 151 Pew Bible)

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Would you consider this question with me for a moment: **PP** *‘Why did God give you life?’*

Knowing that answer can create a life that is focused, effective, satisfying and assuring

**PP** *“For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption” Acts 13:36*

God had a specific will David’s life, and when it was fulfilled, He brought him home

The fact that you are alive shows you have a God-given purpose to fulfill, but what is it?

Well, that same question can be asked of our church: **PP** *‘Why did God give life to this church?’*

In 1983, He put a desire on Rick Bradford and others to start a bible study, and from that humble beginning a church formed

So again, **PP** *What is God’s specific will for Cornerstone; What is His purpose for our church?*

I own a Yamaha FJR 1300 motorcycle, and though I have been advised by a bike mechanic in

our church that I should never pick up a tool again, I do most of the work on that bike

This is my brother’s carb tuner that I used to get all 4 cylinders on that 1300cc motor synced

To use it, I removed several bolts to lift the gas tank, needing this allen socket and 3/8” ratchet

But to remove the vacuum caps, I used this pair of needle nose pliers to remove 4 tiny clamps

Once I tuned the cylinders, I had to tighten all the bolts precisely to the designated foot lbs with this torque wrench

Four different tools, each with a unique purpose to accomplish one thing...get that motorcycle running at peak power and efficiency and reduce engine vibration

Cornerstone is a tool in the hands of God and we have a unique purpose to fulfill

The same is true for Calvary Baptist, and Ebenezer, and Life church, and Philipsburg Alliance

It is important to understand that all Christ-exalting, bible-centered churches have the same mission...*Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ*

But we are each unique in how we fulfill that mission, for God contextualizes His churches

As we understand that purpose, and we align to it, we’ll see our church operate with a great deal of power, efficiency, synced and unified toward the same goal

But how we communicate our purpose in a clear, concise, meaningful way, is something our leadership team has been working on for months

**PP** *The Cornerstone family of churches exists to bring glory to God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who love God, grow together, and serve others*

In August Andy and I went to my mom’s in Central NY, and I asked one of our maple syrup producers the number of gallons of sap that are boiled to make 1 gallon of syrup: 40

So boiling our purpose down, it is: **PP** *Love God, Grow Together and Serve Others*

And in all of this, our ultimate aim is to bring glory to our God which is something Christians say quite a great deal but usually understand very little

In fact, just pause personally and ask yourself: *Do I really know what it means to glorify God?*

**PP** The basic meaning of *‘glory’* or *‘glorify’* is *heavy in weight and opinion*

In ancient times, value was measured in weight, the heavier a bag of gold, the more valuable

Don’t the heavier Christmas gifts seem the more costly when you pick them up to unwrap??

**PP** *To glorify God is to live in such a way that offers evidence for all to see that God is more*

*important and valuable to us than anything or anyone*

The opposite of this is that our actions can bring reproach to Him, and tarnish His reputation God said to the Jewish people, **PP** ***“The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” Romans 2:24***

Our lives individually, and the life of our church, will either bring glory or reproach to God, and unbelievers will evaluate Jesus Christ through the way we live our lives

Cornerstone is going to be either good or bad publicity for Jesus, positive or negative press

Our aim is to be a church where outsiders will see us and say, *‘What an amazing God!’*

But how can we do that?

**PP** ***The Cornerstone family of churches exists to bring glory to God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who love God, grow together, and serve others***

With that, we are ready to look at our text, which is found in **Deuteronomy 6**

***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.” Deuteronomy 6:4-6***

This is a command and not an option, and it must characterize each of us, and our church

This command must carry the greatest urgency, it *‘shall be on your heart’*

And we must teach this to each other: ***“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:7-9***

The Jews put Mezuzahs on their doorposts, to remind them to exalt God in their whole lives

These were cases made from either wood, metal, stone or ceramic, fastened on the right side of the door, and inside was a piece of parchment with this Deuteronomy passage

**PP** As they enter and leave the house, it is customary to touch the mezuzah and quote **Psalm 121:8**, ***“The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.”***

A daily reminder to exalt God higher than all other people and endeavors, loving Him supremely Yet if you have a cynical heart, you may be asking yourself why does God demand we love Him!

Isn't that what insecure people do in dysfunctional relationships?

**PP 1-God does not NEED us to love Him in order to be happy and satisfied**

Theologians talk of God's attributes in usually two ways: His communicable ones that we share, and incommunicable ones that are unique to God alone

One that is unique with God alone is His independence, or self-existence

God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, or for His joy or happiness

Paul said, **PP** ***“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” Acts 17:24-25***

God said to Job, **PP** ***“Who has first given to Me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.” Job 41:11***

He lacks nothing, never struggling with loneliness, or needing a human's adoration to feel good about Himself, or a card in the mail to be feel loved, or a pat on the back for self esteem  
 At the same time, He takes great pleasure in all of creation that reflects His excellence  
 He enjoys when we live in a way that shows the world His attributes  
 But if He doesn't NEED our love, then why does He *rightly* demand it?

## **PP 2-God knows WE need to love Him above all in order for us to be happy and satisfied**

Reflect again that **PP** *To glorify God is to honor Him above all, to make Him more weighty in importance and more valuable than anything or anyone*  
 He is given the weight of glory He deserves as we exalt Him over all else, and deserve He does

### **PP i. *It is because He is the Creator and we are His creation***

Unless you worked nightshift last night, you slept, and something important should have happened in you when you woke up: you are a finite creature who needs sleep  
 Yet the Bible proclaims, **PP** *"He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."* Psalm 121:4  
 He is infinitely and forever greater than us, and He does not exist for us, but us for Him  
 We are to become a God-centered people, and He is to be first in our lives above everything and everyone without exception  
 If someone were to ask you to explain what Cornerstone Church is like, we must be able to honestly answer, **PP** *We are a church seeking to love and adore our God above all else!*  
 Anything less is unacceptable to God, and it cannot be acceptable to us  
 Our Creator is owed all glory, all priority, all love and worship and exaltation  
 Yet there is a seemingly odd truth about why God wants us to love Him above all

### **PP ii. *He is jealous***

What does that mean, since nearly always, we hear something negative in that, something we shouldn't ever be  
*She was jealous when she saw the house their new friends live in...*  
*He was filled with jealousy when his coworker got the promotion he wanted*  
*She is so jealous that her boyfriend cannot even say hello to a girl without her getting angry*

God is jealous for our joy, for our life, for our blessings  
 What we love we will pursue for our happiness, and to love anyone else more than God, is to pursue that thing or person for our happiness, inevitably ending in our loss  
 There is a reason Jesus gave this demand in **PP Matthew 10:37**, *"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."*  
 If we're to be a Christ-centered church, then He must help us love and exalt Him as our highest pursuit in our lives, and only then can we experience the life God means for us to have

## **PP 3-We need the help of God to love Him and exalt Him above all others**

It is an absolute truth that God will always give us the ability to do what He commands

Christian, when you believe that, your life will be filled with courage and confidence  
 God commands us to love Him with all we are, and we cannot naturally do this  
 He doesn't tell us to reach down deep and muster the strength to love Him above all, He fills our  
 hearts with that desire

He doesn't want children who obey Him without love, He wants our obedience to spring from  
 our love

God filling our hearts with the desire and capacity to love Him more is the gospel's work, and  
 we must pray for one another in that way if it is to be a reality

**PP** *"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment"* Philippians 1:9

He also wrote in **PP** Ephesians 3:16-20, *"that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us"*

It is so encouraging to know that God wants our hearts to fill with ever expanding love for Him,  
 and His power is at work in us to make that happen

Can you picture a church made up of people whose hearts are expanding in their love for God?

A church that understands that God brought them together **PP** *to bring glory to God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who love God, grow together, and serve others*

Can you rightly hear the echoes of Deuteronomy 6 in your heart, to *"love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."*?

Imagine a church made up of people who exalt Him as their highest pursuit!

Do you recall the animated Christmas classic, The Grinch, when his heart began to grow?

**PP** *"And what happened then? Well, in Whoville they say That the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day! And then the true meaning of Christmas came through, And the Grinch found the strength of ten Grinches, plus two! And now that his heart didn't feel quite so tight, He whizzed with his load through the bright morning light"*

This is God's will for each of His children, that there would be days our hearts grow three sizes  
 And the true meaning of why Jesus Christ was born would come through

*"God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him."* 1 John 4:9

Christian, pray that God enlarges your love for Him, our Creator, for the reason we exist as a  
 church begins with that

That, by His grace, we will learn together to love God by exalting Him as our greatest priority

Amen?

Pray