

1 Corinthians 1:1

The Centrality of who we are in Relation to God

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 1:1-3 NKJV)

SEEING WHAT'S THERE: The Centrality of Who We Are in Relation to God

The roots of our God-centered self-understanding will go much deeper if we can answer these two questions:

- 1) What happened in the past to make you a Christian?
- 2) What will happen in the future to keep you a Christian?

1. **DIVINE** _____

BIG IDEA FOR LIFE TODAY! - IF GOD CALLED ME; HE HAS A PLAN FOR ME!

2. **DIVINE** _____

BIG IDEA FOR LIFE TODAY! HIS WILL NOT MINE

3. **DIVINE** _____

BIG IDEA FOR TODAY: DON'T BASE YOUR FAITH ON YOUR FEELINGS

Here are some resources to help you think biblically about your life, its direction and priorities

The Purpose Drive life – Rick Warren
It's Not about Me – Max Lucado
The Search for Significance – Robert McGee

Application Questions

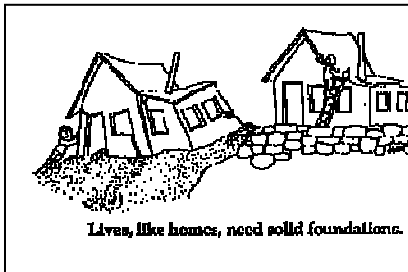
1. How clued in are you to the purpose of your life – both generally and specifically?

In what practical ways can you deepen your awareness of God’s plan for you?

2. Are you relying on God’s power to help you accomplish His will for your life?

Write down experiences from your life when you tried to accomplish God’s will in your own strength. What happened?

What can you do to remind yourself to always rely on God’s power?



3. “Let your feelings be your guide.” That is also the mantra of our world today. Do you let your feelings rule?

List a few ways that Christians today are tempted to be led by their feelings and circumstances.

“Do what feels right.” How do you know what is right?

Make a plan to spend more time in God’s word this week. What is your plan?

Who should you believe: your senses, or the expert?

Jesus says ‘if anyone loves me . . . my Father will love him and we will make our home with him’ (John 14:23); you feel empty.

- God says how often I would have gathered your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings (Matthew 23:37); you feel God is unfeeling.
- God says nothing can separate you from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39); you feel something going wrong proves God no longer loves you.
- God says rejoice in the Lord always (Philippians 4:4); you feel there’s nothing to rejoice in.
- God says be not surprised at the painful trial you are suffering (1 Peter 4:12), we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom (Acts 14:22); you feel surprised.
- God says, he was bruised and wounded for you (Isaiah 53:5); you wonder if he loves you.
- God says your sins will be wiped out (Acts 3:9) and he will remember them no more (Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12); you feel he is holding the past against you.

For as long as you look to feelings and circumstances to verify spiritual truth, you will be a weak Faith – believing in the integrity of God despite what things seem – is the basis of the entire Christian life.