



Focus on God's Ultimate Purpose

Lesson 4

God's Ultimate Purpose for Delivering Us from Habitual Sin

*Transform us into the **IMAGE** of Christ from the inside out.*

Romans 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:9-11

God's Image in the Big Story of the Bible

God's image **created**, God's image **distorted** by sin, God's image **being restored** in Christ, God's image **finally glorified** without sin at our rapture/resurrection with Christ.

What Is the Image of God? *Genesis 1-2*

The image of God is what makes us *uniquely human* unlike anything else in creation:

- A unique **RELATIONSHIP** with God.
- A unique **ROLE** for God.
- A unique **RULE** under God over all of creation.

When we forget God is restoring His image in us or we focus on just one aspect of His image, we will never kill sin and replace it with greater Christlikeness.

1. God's Ultimate Purpose Is Not Just About Greater **PURITY**.

Biblical Truth: "Be holy for I AM holy!" 1 Peter 1:15; Ephesians 4:23-24

- **Wrong Focus:** Greater purity through keeping **RULES**.

Don't touch, don't taste, don't look, don't listen and...be sure do these 10 things! Colossians 2:20-23

- **Fleshly Danger:** Leads to **LEGALISM**.

Obeying a list of rules in order **GET** saved, **STAY** saved, or **BE** spiritual.

- **Fleshly Works:** A focus on purity *alone* leads to being...

- Too scrupulous
- Too negative
- Too pessimistic
- Too morbid
- Too introspective
- Too proud

- **Deadly Result:** **Relationship** (if any) **with God** without real **MATURITY** being developed.

*Mature believers resist temptation out of **LOVE** for their triune God.*

2. God's Ultimate Purpose Is Not Just About Better **PERFORMANCE**.

Biblical Truth: "Faith without works is dead"! James 2:20, 26; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13-14

- **Wrong Focus:** Just performing more spiritual **ACTIVITIES** for God.

- **Fleshly Danger:** Leads to **LAWLESSNESS**.

The Corinthians: *1 Corinthians 1:4-7; 3:1-3*

- **Fleshly Works:** Seeing one's ministry as proof of being spiritual versus one's **MOTIVES**.

1. Confusing spiritual **ACTIVITY** with being spiritual.
2. Putting performance over **OBEDIENCE** to the clear teaching of the Word of God.
3. Forgetting that God looks on the **HEART**, not just external activities and outward appearances. *1 Cor 3:10-15*

- **Deadly Result: Representing God** without real **MINISTRY** taking place.

*Ministry is sharing with others out of the **OVERFLOW** of my own love relationship with Jesus Christ.*

*Ministry is God working in me for the benefit of **OTHERS**.*

3. God's Ultimate Purpose Is Not Just About More **POWER**.

Biblical Truth: *"The gospel is the power of God unto salvation!" Romans 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:4-5*

- **Wrong Focus:** Finding the secret to **MIRACULOUS** experiences.

- **Fleshly Danger:** Leads to **MANIPULATION**.

- **Fleshly Works:** Leads to...

1. Depending more on what you **DO** than what God has already **DONE** in Christ.
2. Treating God like my personal **GENIE**.
3. Pursuing "**PERFECTIONISM**."

- **Deadly Result: Ruling like a God** by manipulation without **MULTIPLICATION**.

*Multiplication is the result of **REPRODUCING** our love relationship with Jesus Christ in the lives of others.*

4. God's Ultimate Purpose Is All About Enjoying His **PRESENCE**.

Biblical Truth: It takes *purity, performance, and power* to restore God's image but all this comes through the **PERSON** of Christ. *2Corinthians 3:18*

- **Right Focus:** God's number one goal is to **BE** with us and **WALK** with us through our lives!

Genesis 3:8; 5:24; Exodus 6:7; Revelation 21:3

- **Spiritual Delight:** A focus on God's presence results in...

1. Greater *purity* in the right **WAY!**
2. Better *performance* with the right **MOTIVES!**
3. More *power* for the right **REASON!**

- **Spiritual Fruit:** The ultimate goal is not simply victory over sin, but **GOD HIMSELF!**

"O Lord, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their all in You." – Augustine

John 17:3; Revelation 21:3-8

- **Godly Result:** God's holy image being restored in Christ as we relate with Christ, represent Christ, and rule under Christ as His church.

God's Image Bearers KNOW → GROW → SHOW → GO for His Glory and the Joy of Others!

- KNOW** *Supernaturally **restored** = **regenerated*** in Christ by the Spirit to be members in God's forever family.
Romans 8:29-30; Titus 3:5-7
- GROW** *Joyfully **relating*** with Christ and His church with the goal of maturity.
Colossians 1:28; Ephesians 4:11-13
- SHOW** *Powerfully **representing*** the life and ministry of Christ in our daily lives and ministry.
Acts 4:13
- GO:** *Spiritually **ruling*** over our lives and ministries to multiply image bearers until Christ comes.
John 15:16; Galatians 4:19

Pray with God's Ultimate Purpose in Mind!

Heavenly Father, I long to know You better, and I'm glad that You have allowed this trial of besetting sin as a gracious reminder of how desperately I need You. **Only You** through Your Son and by Your Spirit can *make me pure*. **Only You** can *make my performance have eternal significance*. **Only You** can *give me the power to say no to sin and yes to Christ*. Help me to remember that the **REAL PURPOSE** for forsaking my sin is to **REVEAL YOUR PRESENCE** in my life and to enjoy a closer relationship with You and Your people as Your image bearers!

In the Name of Jesus who is Your perfect Image, Amen!