



You are SHAPED for ministry

Part 1

“The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.” Michelangelo

“It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” C.S. Lewis

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ps 139:14-16 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

You must first discover _____ you are; then you can determine _____ God wants you to be.

Workmanship =

“Da Vinci painted one Mona Lisa, Beethoven created one Fifth Symphony, and God made one version of you. You’re it! You’re the only you there is. And if we don’t get you, we don’t get you. You’re the only shot we have at you. You can do something no one else can do in a fashion no one else can do it. You are more than a coincidence of chromosomes and heredity, more than just an assemblage of somebody else’s lineage. You are uniquely made. ...

But can you be anything you want to be? If you are uniquely made – now stop and think about this – if you’re uniquely made, can you really be anything you want to be? If you don’t have the sense that takes care of numbers, can you be an accountant? If you don’t have a love for the dirt, can you be a farmer? If you don’t have an appreciation and a devotion to kids, can you really be a teacher? Well, you can be an unhappy one, an unsatisfied one. You can be one of the 87% of the workforce that doesn’t like their work – one of the 80% of the people that says ‘I don’t use my talents on a daily basis.’ You can be a statistic.” Max Lucado, *Cure for the Common Life*

Kingdom purpose: your specific _____ to the body of Christ, within your generation, that causes you to totally _____ on God and authentically _____ his love toward others – all through the expression of your unique _____.

1 Cor 12:4-7, Josh 1:9

“Your career could provide you the platform to direct your Kingdom Purpose, but it doesn’t define it.” Erik Rees

S.H.A.P.E. =

S

H

A

P

E

“If you don’t understand your shape, you end up doing things that God never intended or designed you to do. When your gifts meet the role you play in life, you feel like a square peg in a round hole. This is frustrating, both to you and to others. Not only does it produce limited results, it is also an enormous waste of your talents, time, & energy.”
Rick Warren

According to Scripture: (Jer 18:1-6, Is 64:8)

- God is the _____
- We are the _____

Phil 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

The primary task for the believer is to be focused on _____ He has for each one of us.

How focused are you?

A personal survey

1. My unique God-given purpose in life is clear.....3 2 1
2. My spiritual gifts are being expressed.....3 2 1
3. My passions are being utilized for God.....3 2 1
4. My natural abilities are being used to serve others.....3 2 1
5. My personality is helping me serve others.....3 2 1
6. My purpose capitalizes on many of my experiences.....3 2 1
7. My life is completely surrendered to God.....3 2 1
8. My attitude and actions reflect a servant heart.....3 2 1
9. My accountability to others is consistent.....3 2 1
10. My schedule shows how I'm investing in others.....3 2 1
11. My plan to fulfill my purpose from God is set.....3 2 1

(25+ points) **A Focused Kingdom Purpose** – Your God-given strengths seem clear and your specific purpose from God is concise. Your life is in balance and providing lasting fulfillment. You strive to live surrendered so you can find freedom in your role as a servant. You have a solid accountability team in place that offers the encouragement and support you need to be faithful to God's design. You invest in the lives of others on a regular basis. Your master plan is on target for maximizing your God-given strengths. You feel you truly are living the life you were meant to live.

(15-25 points) **A Fragmented Kingdom Purpose** – Your God-honoring purpose seems cluttered. Your strengths are somewhat confused due to the fact that you are overextended in many areas of your life – something we can all relate to. There are times when you feel you are using your gifts for God's glory, but there also are issues, emotions, and desires in your life that you still need to surrender to God in order to live the life He has in store for you. Your accountability to others may not be as consistent as God – or you – would like. You desire to invest in others, but have not committed the time. You have a few goals in place, but no master plan to ensure your purpose for God is completed. The result is intermittent fulfillment. You occasionally feel you are living the life you were created for, but you long for greater clarity.

(Less than 15 points) **A Frustrated Kingdom Purpose** – You are confused about your specific purpose in life for God. You lack a clear idea of who you are and you have few clues about what God made you to do. Your specific God-given strengths are unknown. Surrender and servanthood are not themes you have engaged at this stage of your journey with God. You don't feel safe making yourself accountable to others. Investing in others is not currently a priority in your life. Overall, your life is not as balanced as you would like it to be. Fulfillment is hard for you to find. You admit you don't have a clear-cut strategy for your life. You may even feel most of the time that you are just surviving.