

Becoming Purposeful: Stewards of Relationships

I. Becoming Purposeful — WHO ARE WE BECOMING?

A. Society Says : Conform to the World and Perform for the World

1. Conform : *to fashion oneself according to the world*
2. Perform : *to earn, accomplish or achieve... and find value, purpose, and belonging in what one does*

EVERYONE IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING FORMED;
FEW ARE BECOMING SOMEONE ON PURPOSE

B. Scripture Says : Be Formed into the Image of Christ and Be Transformed in/by/for Christ

1. Identity Formation : *the process of a new understanding of who one is in relation to Christ, the Church, and the world* (2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 4:19)
"My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you..." - Galatians 4:19

2. Spiritual Transformation : Transformation is *to change into another form altogether*; spiritual transformation, or sanctification, *the process of being changed into the image of Christ* (becoming like Him) is not something one can manipulate or control, but something one can only surrender to (2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 12:2)
"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." - Romans 12:2a

WHO ARE WE BECOMING, AND IS IT ON PURPOSE?

II. Becoming Purposeful: Stewards in Christ

- ##### **A. Stewardship : the careful use and management of the possessions of *another* that have been entrusted to *someone else***

B. Bad Stewards:

1. Chase Conformity: *"I'll do what the rest of the world does"; selfish ambition and self-interests and in relationships, either controlling or abdicating them;*
2. Pursue Performance: *"I worked so hard! Surely I can do whatever I like with what I've been given because it belongs to ME!"* (Luke 15:28-30)

C. Purposeful Stewards are in Christ!

1. Live On Purpose: Loved and Given Gifts from the Father (Psalm 24:1, James 1:17)
"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..." - Psalm 24:1

2. Live With a Purpose: Connected and Serving One Another and the World as Members of the Family of God (1 Peter 4:10, Philippians 2:3-5)

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus..." - Phil. 2:3-5

3. Live For a Purpose: Entrusted and Living Out Our Faith in Jesus as Children of God (Matthew 25:14-30)

WE ARE LOVED BEYOND MEASURE ON PURPOSE BY GOD,
CONNECTED WITH A PURPOSE WITH A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS,
AND ENTRUSTED FOR A PURPOSE WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST;
NOW GO BE A PURPOSEFUL STEWARD!

III. **Becoming Purposeful: Stewards of Relationships**

(Great Commission—Matthew 28:18-20 with Greatest Commandment—Mark 12:28-31)

- A. In Relationship to our Spouses
 1. Pray: Praying For and With your Spouse
 2. Prepare: Setting Aside Specific Time
 3. Promise: Cherish Wives and Respect Husbands (Ephesians 5:33)
- B. In Relationship to our Kids
 1. Ask Good Questions
 2. Be Present (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)
 3. Consider their Situation
- C. In Relationship to Friends / Extended Family / Co-Workers / Rockbridge County
 1. Listen (After you ask good questions!)
 2. Love your Neighbor (Even when it's not convenient!)
 3. Live as Salt of the Earth and Light of the World (Matthew 5:12-16)
- D. In Relationship to our Community of Believers
 1. Show Up and Slow Down
 2. Come Early and Come Often
 3. Be Interruptible

What is God up to within you these days?

How might knowing you are steward of relationships change how you approach them?

Who has God entrusted to you and how might you steward those relationships?

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