



**TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM CHRISTIAN TEENS**

*Why Were We Made  
If We Are Just Going To Die?*

By

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FaithandSelfDefense planned to start a new apologetics series in August 2020 to coincide with the start of a new school year. However, the Coronavirus global pandemic brought most people inside their homes for an extended period of time. Because of that, we started the series in April 2020 as a way to help parents and teens talk with each other about some very important issues.

This new series, *Tough Questions From Christian Teens*, is designed to help parents and teens talk about anything that bothers them about the Bible or being a Christian. We have asked Christian teens from several locations to ask us tough questions — and we mean TOUGH questions.

Here's our first question. The answer is a bit long, but we hope you'll hang in there. This question is so important to get right.

“Why where we made if we are just going to die later in our lives?”



## Why?

‘Why’ questions usually go to ‘purpose.’ If I want to know why you did something, I would need to ask you ‘why’ to get the right answer. The same is true for God. I need to ask Him ‘why.’ How do we ask God ‘why’ questions? We go to God’s Word, the Bible, for the answers.

Let’s begin with what the Bible tells us about God’s purpose for our lives. Here are a few Bible verses that may help us understand what’s behind God’s decisions and actions.

“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.” Ephesians 3:8-12

We see here that God has an ‘eternal purpose’ that He accomplished in Jesus Christ. That’s an important clue for us in understanding why God did what He did. God’s purpose is ‘eternal’ and it has to do with Jesus. Notice

that the Apostle Paul also refers to God's purpose concerning 'the church.' The 'church' includes all true believers in Jesus Christ.

Other terms the Bible uses for something God did in eternity include 'before time began' and 'before the foundation of the world.' Here are a few examples. Notice how God's purposes from eternity concerned His Son, Jesus Christ.

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy 1:8-10

"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior." Titus 1:1-3

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 1:3-7

“... knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” 1 Peter 1:18-21

These and other verses in the Bible demonstrate that God ‘purposed’ in eternity to do something remarkable that would affect both the Son of God and human beings. Before time began, before the foundation (creation) of the world, God determined to initiate a plan that would lead to Jesus dying on the Cross to shed His blood so that we could be forgiven for our sins, redeemed and given the gift of eternal life. That’s an amazing purpose, but the question remains, ‘why’. Why did God do what He did the way He did it?

## God's Love

We know from God's revelation (His Word) that He is perfect in every way. We also know that His ways are higher than our ways – “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9). That makes understanding His purpose difficult to fully understand because God is different than us. God is All-Knowing. He is also Good and Kind. God is Love. That means His purpose is based on His complete knowledge and His goodness, kindness and love. Even if we struggle with understanding God's purpose, we can trust Him.

Reminds me of what Matt Redman wrote in his song *10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)* –

*“You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find”*

God loves us very much. From before our birth to after our death, God does everything for us from His great heart of love.

## God's Glory

God's purpose has to do with Jesus being glorified and our being glorified. We learn about that in Jesus' prayer to His Father on the night he was arrested. He first prayed that God the Father would glorify Him with the same glory He had 'before the world was.'

"Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: 'Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.'" John 17:1-5

Jesus then prayed that His Father would glorify all who believed in Him in the days and years following His resurrection. That includes us!

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the

world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:20-23

This great blessing of being ‘glorified’ with Christ comes to all who are ‘the called according to His purpose.’ That purpose is what He determined to do from eternity and what He has demonstrated since time began.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” Romans 8:28-30

The ‘glory’ God purposed in eternity to give us includes something He calls ‘eternal life.’ That goes to your question about why God made us if we are just going to die later in our lives. To understand that better let’s go back to the beginning of time.

## God's Beginning

God created the first human beings in His image and likeness. God wanted them to rule the earth with Him (Genesis 1:26-28). God gave Adam one command and attached a severe penalty to that command –

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’ Genesis 2:16-17

That shows us a couple of things. First, it appears death was not an experience Adam would have experienced if he obeyed God's command. Second, it also appears God controlled whether humans would live or die. As we know, Adam disobeyed God and eventually died physically. Spiritual death, meaning separation from spiritual relationship with God, began immediately. God pronounced curses that would affect all humans, the earth and Satan. In God's curse to Satan (the serpent), He included His eternal purpose of the Son of God dying as Savior of humanity –

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15

Eve first thought that Cain would be the promised seed, but she later realized it would have been Abel. After Cain killed Abel she believed Seth would be the seed.

“And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, ‘For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.’ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.” Genesis 4:25-26

We know from following the list of family lineages in the Bible that Jesus Christ, who is the promised Seed, came from Seth (Luke 3:38). God’s eternal purpose was revealed through that lineage.

God’s eternal ‘plan’ is based on His eternal ‘purpose’. God created Adam knowing Adam would disobey Him. God gave His Eternal Son to the world “that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Jesus told Nicodemus that sinful people must be ‘born again.’ Jesus said that “unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Seeing the Kingdom of God, being with God forever, is God’s purpose for us. He wants us to be with Him because He loves us with an everlasting love!

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

## God's Adventure

I believe we are on the greatest adventure anyone can travel. From the moment we are born and breathe air we are on that journey with God. We have parents and grandparents, uncles and aunts, siblings and cousins, and many, many friends. Some day you will have a family of your own and you will continue your adventure with them. Life is filled with great expectations and opportunities. When this first stop on our grand journey is over, we will step into the next phase of our journey with God. It will take us to Heaven and to all that God has planned for us to do with Him for ever and ever.

God has a purpose for each of our lives that includes birth, death and rebirth. That rebirth is what we call resurrection. If we die before Jesus returns to earth, we will be raised up together to be with Him forever. Being with Christ forever is our great destiny .. our eternally purposed destination.

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus

we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I am greatly comforted by these words. Whether I’m alive at Jesus’ return or die before, I know I will be raised up with all true believers and will “always be with the Lord.” What a great purpose and promise from God.

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