
What's Our Purpose?: A Study in Contrasts – Part 2

1. ***Not to Please Everyone But to Please the Lord***
(Col 3:22-24) ...whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...
2. ***Not to Teach What We Want to Hear But What We Need to Hear***
(Acts 20:27) For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.
(2 Tim 4:1-4) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
(1 Thes 2:4-5) ...neither at any time did we use flattering words...
3. ***Not To Gain Glory But To Give Ourselves For Others***
(1 Thes 2:6-9) ...Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others...
4. ***Not To Retain Everyone But To Impact Everyone***
(1 John 2:18-19) ...They went out from us, but they were not of us...
5. ***Not To Teach Man's Imperfect Ideas But God's Inspired Word***
(Col 2:6-8) Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.
(1 Tim 6:20-21) O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane [and] idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge – by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace [be] with you. Amen.
6. ***Not to Pursue Trends But To Preach the Truth***
Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane [and] idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. (2 Tim 2:15-16)
7. ***Not To Make God Part of Your Life But To Make Him the Center of It***

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matt 6:33)

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (Col 3:1-2)
8. ***Not To Temporarily Change Your Habits But To Permanently Change Your Heart***

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matt 15:18-19)

9. ***Not To Develop Passive Listeners But Growing Learners***

(James 1:21-25)²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ...²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

10. ***Not To Entertain Sitters But To Equip Servers***

(Eph 4:11-16)¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ--¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

11. ***Not to Focus on Earthly Accomplishments but Eternal Victories***

(Phil 3:7-8) But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

12. ***Not To Make Us Comfortable But To Conform Us To The Image of Jesus Christ***

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. (Rom 8:29)