

A Worshipping Church

(from sermon by Rick Warren)

Illustration: Chevron Petrol station

Bill Mallory traveled to India to discover the purpose of life. But he didn't find the answer there. After returning to the US, he noticed a sign at **Chevron Petrol station that simply said, "As you travel, ask us."**

So every time he pulled into a Chevron station, he would look to the sign and say, "I'm a traveler. I'd like to ask you a question.

What is the purpose of life?" These were the answers he got. – first guy said, "Sorry. I'm new here."

Another said,

"I don't remember anything in the manual about that."

Another said, "I'm not much into church myself, sir."

However, most people just gave him a blank stare, cleaned his windscreen; but he kept asking at all the Chevron stations.

One day Mallory got a phone call from **Chevron Customer Relations**. He said, "We understand you've been asking our dealer questions and getting unsatisfactory answers." The man suggested that he **write out his question and send it to Chevron Corporate with a self-addressed stamped envelope**. So Bill Mallory wrote, "What is the purpose of life?" and sent it to Chevron Petrol Company. **the envelope was returned with an application for a credit card!**

If you want to know the purpose of life, you're not going to find it in a petrol station. You're not going to find it on a talk show. You're not going to find it in a self-help book. You're not going to find it at some seminar. If you want to know the purpose of life, you have to either talk to the creator who made you, or look in the owner's manual...

► Created for God's pleasure

you created all things, and by your will (for thy pleasure [KJV]) they were created and have their being. Revelation 4:11b

► Flip-side God says "Love me back"

Love the Lord your God... This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38

► We often limit worship to what we do in church

MY 1ST PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO WORSHIP GOD.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 12:1

1. **WORSHIP is MY RESPONSE to God's love.**

2. **WORSHIP is GIVING BACK to God.**

► What do we give?:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Mark 12:30

GOD WANTS ME TO LOVE HIM...

THOUGHTFULLY

"with all my mind"

PASSIONATELY

"with all my heart and soul"

PRACTICALLY

"with all my strength"

1. **WORSHIP IS FOCUSING MY ATTENTION ON GOD.**

► God has focused his attention on us

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Psalm 139:1-3

Illustration: Fall in love –

► Focus all our attention

Actively – we have to work at it e.g. In marriage

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

► We must chose to focus on God:

A time and a place

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. *Matthew 6:6*

When we meet together Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. *Colossians 3v16*

All the time: Worship continually – use an hourly alarm!

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.
Psalm 105:4

► As we focus on God he gives us his peace in our lives

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. *Isaiah 26:3*

2. WORSHIP IS GIVING MY AFFECTION TO GOD.

► God has done it first

We love [Him], because He first loved us. *1 John 4:19*

He wants us to love Him

► A jealous love: God wants all of our love

Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. *Exodus 34:14b*

► What can we give to God? Thanks, praise, ourselves

¹Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. *Rom. 6:13*

- We will do this when we realize God's love for us

3. WORSHIP IS USING MY ABILITIES FOR GOD.

► Love has to be shown practically

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, *Colossians 3:23*

When you change who you're working for, your work becomes worship.

Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.
Romans 12:1a (Message)

► **The biggest temptation** in life is always going to be to worship something else other than God, **to give your attention, your affection and ability to something other than the Creator** who made you.

► What is the driving force in our lives?

So we make it our goal to please Him... 2 Corinthians 5:9

Do you know what you're going to do in heaven?

The Bible says

in heaven, we're going to give God our attention,

we're going to give him our affection

and we're going to give him our abilities for all of eternity.

And here **on earth, God wants you to practice**

so that when you get to heaven, you know how to worship.