

Life: what is the point?

Introduction

This is a question, often asked, that receives multiple and very varied answers. However, only a Christian can answer this question properly. I will endeavour to do so in a concise manner.

The spiritual point

The first and most important purpose of life is spiritual; it concerns our relationship to God.

The point of human existence is to glorify God; that is why man was created. In order to do this a person must first have peace with God, and that is only obtainable through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Point 1: Glorify God.

Point 2: Through peace with God.

I will glorify Your name forevermore. Ps 86:12

Therefore glorify the LORD in the dawning light. Isa 24:15

That you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rm 15:6

Glorify God in your body and in your spirit. 1 Cor 6:20

Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.
The Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 1.

All believers through the knowledge of that Justification of life given by the Father, and brought forth by the blood of Christ, have this as their great privilege of that the new Covenant, peace with God, and reconciliation, whereby they that were afar off, were brought nigh by that blood, and have (as the Scripture speaks) peace passing all understanding, yea, joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the Atonement.

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1644, XXX.

The personal point

This is very simple; it is to have a clear conscience.

Life makes no sense and quickly goes astray if the conscience is not clean. We must train and obey our conscience. We train it by gaining knowledge (renewing the mind) and we obey it by resisting temptation.

Many people are wracked with guilt and their lives are full of neuroses. This is because the conscience is not clean. Guilt must be admitted, confessed and redemption sought.

Point 3: A clear conscience.

I [Paul] have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. Acts 23:1

I [Paul] myself always strive to have a conscience without offence toward God and men. Acts 24:16

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith. 1 Tim 1:5

Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck. 1 Tim 1:19

Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. 1 Tim 3:9

Such as truly believe in Christ, [will] endeavour to walk in all good conscience before him.

Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 80.

The practical point

After the Fall, man was commanded to eat his bread by the sweat of his face. This is the principle of work. On Earth we must work.

This principle affects everyone whatever their status. Obviously, working men must work to put food on the table. But unemployed and retired men should make sure that they work, whether that is helping others, working voluntarily, edifying others or whatever; work must continue as it is a fact of life.

We gain satisfaction at the end of the day if we have worked hard and achieved something. What is unacceptable is doing nothing and being lazy.

Point 4: Work hard.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground.
Gen 3:19

Let him labour, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Eph 4:28

You remember, brethren, our labour and toil; for labouring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 1 Thess 2:9

If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 2 Thess 3:10

Desiring from our souls ... always abounding in the work of the Lord, as knowing our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.¹

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1644, LII.

¹ Even ordinary, daily work is the work of the Lord, if performed in his name and for his glory. This understanding, gained during the Reformation, provided the catalyst for modern civilised development.

The relationship point

Although some people are called to be single in order to concentrate more on the Lord's work, the majority of people are called to marry and provide a stable environment to bring up healthy children; sound in body and mind.

The human race must continue as long as God decrees; thus children must be born and this means Biblical marriage and Biblical homes.

Point 5: Marriage and children.

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it'. Gen 1:28

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb *is* a reward. Ps 127:3

Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. 1 Tim 3:12

I desire that *the* younger *widows* marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 1 Tim 5:14

Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with legitimate issue, and of the Church with a holy seed; and for preventing of uncleanness.

Westminster Confession of Faith, 24:2.

The way that relationships are conducted is by love.

Relationships on Earth are supposed to be a reflection of the loving community that exists in the Godhead. To glorify God, all our relationships must be based on love.

In the church, the unity between saints and the Lord Jesus is symbolised by marriage. Thus the church is to be, par excellence, the epitome of love. Church is not an institution based on regulations and duty, but a family based on love and fellowship (communion).

Point 6: Relationships are based on love.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. Jn 13:24

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another. Rm 12:10

Through love serve one another. Gal 5:13

'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Eph 5:31-32

Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col 3:13-14

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you. 1 Thess 3:12

If you really fulfil *the* royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself', you do well. Jm 2:8

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart. 1 Pt 1:22

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 Jn 4:7-8

All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by His Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with Him in His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good.

Westminster Confession of Faith, 26:1.

What is the sum of the six commandments which contain our duty to man? A. The sum of the six commandments which contain our duty to man, is, to love our neighbour as ourselves, and to do to others what we would have them to do to us.

Westminster Larger Catechism, 122.

The social point

This is doing good to other people; treating people as you would expect them to treat you. Going out of your way to do whatever you can to help the poor, needy and vulnerable. Doing good to others is the basis of a benevolent society.

In the church, doing good involves edifying fellow believers in every way possible and assisting them when in need.

Point 7: Do good to other people.

You shall love your neighbour as yourself: I *am* the LORD. Lev 19:18

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matt 5:16

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Rm 12:21

Let us not grow weary while doing good. Gal 6:9

Let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. Gal 6:10

Do not grow weary *in* doing good. 2 Thess 2:13

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share. 1 Tim 6:18

Do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Heb 13:16

Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ.

Westminster Confession of Faith, 16:3.

Therefore it is impossible that this holy faith can be unfruitful in man: for we do not speak of a vain faith, but of such a faith, which is called in Scripture, a faith that works by love, which excites man to the practice of those works, which God has commanded in his Word. Which works, as they proceed from the good root of faith, are good and acceptable in the sight of God, forasmuch as they are all sanctified by his grace: howbeit they are of no account towards our justification.

Belgic Confession, Article 24, Of man's Sanctification and Good Works.

Summary

Point 1: Glorify God.

Point 2: Through peace with God.

Point 3: A clear conscience.

Point 4: Work hard.

Point 5: Marriage and children.

Point 6: Relationships are based on love.

Point 7: Do good to other people.

Conclusion

This paper is simple and straightforward. Yet how many millions of people in the world fail to live by any of these terms? That is why there is so much trouble in the world.

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