

# Why Did a Loving God Make Me This Way?

*(Adapted from lessons developed by Ethan Longhenry)*

Introduction: Psalm 139:13-14

- A. As humans, we have our various habits and processes, some part of being a human, and others developed over the years.
  - 1. Eating, working, sleeping, recreating. etc.
- B. We often do not put a lot of thought into many of the things we do; however, is there value in asking why we do what we do, especially in spiritual matters?
  - 1. Should we stop and think about what we do and why we do it?
  - 2. What is our purpose in life?
  - 3. Can our service to God be enhanced and more effective if we purposefully consider what we are to do and why we are to do it?
  - 4. How much of what we are and what we do is based on how God made us, and how much is based on choices of ourselves and others, or time and chance?
- C. God created all of us with the necessary fundamentals we need to become His children - John 1:12
  - 1. After that, whatever you do or become, whether in trial, tests, triumphs, toils, or talents depends on other factors:
    - a. Time to grow
    - b. Talents given
    - c. How hard one is willing to work
    - d. Random chance
    - e. Personal choices
    - f. Choices imposed by others
  - 2. God is not to be made responsible for these factors
  - 3. The question is flawed; it assumes that it is God's job to void all of the above for your personal happiness.
    - a. Asking a sister why she hasn't preached a better sermon today
    - b. Asking the local mayor why he hasn't lowered federal income tax
    - c. They are not responsible for these things

## **I. WE HAVE PURPOSE AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN DIRECTION**

- A. Prov. 29:18
  - 1. People lead lives of desperate failure when they are unguided
    - a. 2Tim. 3:16-17
  - 2. People lead lives of tragic unhappiness when they have no purpose other than existing
    - a. Prov. 24:20; Phil. 3:13-14
  - 3. Those who allow God's will to guide them and cooperate with His purpose for their existence have lives that are shaped by these things, and live fulfilling lives
- B. 1Cor. 9:24-27; Heb. 12:1-3
  - 1. Focus, determination, purpose required to fulfill God's purposes and lead a rewarding, worthwhile life

## II. WHY WERE WE MADE TO DO WHAT WE DO?

### A. Two answers:

1. The Biblical expectation: what we must do according to scripture in order to be well pleasing to God (By design)
  - a. These are things that all Christians can and must do
  - b. None of them are outside of the scope of human beings
  - c. Worship God, live moral lives, be faithful until death
2. The Divine expectation: what we must do according to Biblical examples in order to grow in the Lord and lead fulfilling, useful lives (By determined effort)

### B. How this works in worship

1. According to Scripture, all things in the assembly are to be done to reverence God (Biblical expectation - Psalm 89:7) and for building up (Divine expectation - 1Cor. 14:26)
2. Praying: we pray to thank God, make requests to Him - Col. 4:2-3
  - a. At the same time, the one leading the prayer should consider how the prayer will build up others - 1Cor. 14:14-17
  - b. With the first we keep the command; with the second we fulfill our purpose
3. Singing: we sing to praise God - Heb. 13:15
  - a. We also speak to one another in song - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
  - b. As singers, we should consider how well we are speaking to one another, and if we really mean what is sung, and song leaders should consider how the songs work to build up and of the reasoning in the selections of songs
4. Lord's Supper: we partake to remember Jesus' death - 1Cor. 11:23-26
  - a. Attention must be given as to how we can best encourage and edify brethren as they partake; after all we are showing forth something as we partake - 1Cor. 11:26
  - b. With the first, we keep the command; with the second, we help others to draw nearer to Christ
5. Preaching: preaching is to instruct, exhort, rebuke, encourage as necessary (2Tim. 4:1-2)
  - a. One who gets up and preaches truth fulfills the command
  - b. One who gives thought as to how best to communicate the message to people to build up their faith truly edifies them and fulfills himself - 1Tim. 4:15-16
6. Giving: as one prospers, keeps the command - 1Cor. 16:2
  - a. Giving cheerfully and eagerly manifests growing in the Lord
  - b. 2Cor. 9:6-9 - The first obeys God; the second obeys God with joy

## III. WHY DID GOD MAKE ME THIS WAY?

### A. Humans do better when given goals and incentives

1. Without direction, guidance, purpose and incentive, humans do not accomplish much

- B. Humans also need encouragement - Heb. 10:24-25; 1Thes. 5:11, 14
  - 1. Why are people willing to sacrifice so much for various causes?
  - 2. They are motivated by being part of something greater than themselves
- C. Humans also are easily distracted and diverted
  - 1. The Adversary pulls our focus away from our goals and re-directs it to the circumstances of this life
    - a. Things we do not have, health we wish was better, talents we do not enjoy, relationships we cannot cultivate, things we cannot change, matters we should not indulge
  - 2. With our focus away from anticipation of heaven and the joy of a fulfilling Christian life, we become vulnerable to the emptiness and unhappiness of an earth centered life
  - 3. And then while we are wrapped in unhappiness, he moves us to ask God questions that are based on false information and faulty reasoning, and then blame God when we don't get the responses we want

#### **IV. SO, YOU DON'T HAVE THE LIFE YOU WANTED...**

- A. Who does? The day will come when what you sorrow over will seem so unimportant. Learn to love the life you have
  - 1. Lam. 3:31-33; Micah 7:7-10; 1Thes. 3:3-4; 1Peter 5:10; John 16:20; Psalm 126:5-6
- B. Did God spare Jesus when He asked for the cup of suffering to pass?
  - 1. What makes us think He will spare us? John 15:20-21
- C. Did God remove the thorn in the flesh from the apostle Paul when he thought he would be more effective without it?
  - 1. 2Cor. 12:7-10
  - 2. What makes us think we are more special than Paul that we would question God for not removing ours?

#### **V. YOU HAVE THE LIFE YOU ARE TO HAVE**

- A. God made you a human being beset with the human predicament: all men sin and all men die
  - 1. We are not gods; we are men, subject to the limits and constraints of a physical world
  - 2. We are headed for an eternal life in heaven untouched by the limits of this world
  - 3. Keep your focus there and live an obedient and fulfilling life here
  - 4. Do not be distracted by the Adversary who is teaching you to ask questions of God that are inherently unfair and misguided
- B. It is not: Why did a loving God make me this way?
  - 1. It is: How wonderful it is that a loving God made it possible for me to rise above my existence and its limits by means of His gospel!