

Series: Wholehearted
Message: We Were Made for This
Date: November 11, 2018

As we conclude this series, there is one last statement that I want to unpack today. It's not in our mission document, but it has been in front of us for the past six weeks. It is a statement that takes our corporate mission, and turns it into a personal mandate. You could recite mission and values, draw strategy all day long...*but if you don't grasp and believe this particular biblical truth...those things will remain just concepts, not life changing realities.*

I'm speaking of that phrase...**"we were made for this."** We were made for what? We were made for wholehearted life in Jesus, and helping others find wholehearted life in Jesus.

As we have done with each part of our mission, values and strategy, we must root this in the Scripture, and we will do so by going back to the very beginning.

If you have your Bibles, please turn to **Genesis 1:26-28**. These three verses are like one of those little dried sponge animals. You know, where you have this colored "pill" and when you put a few drops of water on it, it starts growing, and growing, and expanding – until that little pill is now an elephant, or a zebra.

Within these three verses we find the deepest longings and desires that God has put in the human heart. *What I don't want you to miss is that these desires and longings are God given. Which is why we can say..."we were indeed made for this."*

Read Genesis 1:26-28...

Swiss Theologian Emil Brunner once wrote...

"The most powerful of all spiritual forces is man's view of himself, the way in which He understands his nature and his destiny, indeed it is the one force which determines all the others which influence human life."

The point that Brunner is making is that *what we believe about our **identity** and our **purpose*** shape every part of our lives, and everything we do. In the creation account of Genesis, God goes to great lengths to make sure we know *who we are, what we are, and why we are here.*

The importance of our text today is that it is the only *definitive, trustworthy* and *true* view of humanity. This is where we stand apart from the world, and

we stand upon this Word from God, to understand our **nature** (Identity) and our **destiny** (Purpose).

First our *nature*...

By repetition, we see that Moses intends for us to see that humanity is *made "in the image of God."* (4x) The billion-dollar question is...*"what does this mean?"*

It means that we are "created" beings, not "evolved" beings. It means that we are the making of a personal God. It means that our nature – our value, identity and worth – are given, bestowed – they are not earned or achieved.

The Psalmist will say, "we are fearfully and wonderfully made." Distinct from all of creation – human beings are endowed with the highest of value and worth – not because we earn it, but because "made in the image of God" – *He bestows it.*

And the value of a human being is not diminished by the fall of man. Sin does not make us less valuable, of less worth. What sin does is **that it distorts how we see our value**... and thus we spend our lives trying to find that which will convince us that we matter, that we are valuable, that we are of worth. *We go in search of it, rather than accept it.*

Our nature: we are of infinite value and worth, we matter...not because of what we do, but because we are made in the image of God.

How about our *Destiny*, what are we here for, why do we exist?

We are made for **Relationship**: with God and with each other. It is out of this fundamental truth that our purpose and meaning flow: to **reflect, rule and reproduce**.

We are made to REFLECT. That is, we are on this planet to show what God is like.

Another way of saying this, *we exist to Glorify God*, to reveal to all creation Who God is and what God is like. As ones who bear the "image of God" we are made to reflect his image to all of creation. Paul give a pretty good summary of what this would entail in Philippians 4:8.....*"whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, worthy of praise..."*

This is repeated throughout the Bible, that our lives are to reveal what God is like. If you want it in two words...*"Be holy."*

We are also made to RULE. That is, God made us and gave us a purpose...to co-rule creation with Him.

This is not as "ALL POWERFUL RULIER OF EARTH" – but man as "the steward of the planet and all it contains." And it is *co-ruling creation* in accordance with God's character, such that we do so guided by....."whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, worthy of praise..."

We are made to reflect, rule...and REPRODUCE...

"male and female He created them...blessed them, and said to them be fruitful and multiply..."(v. 28).

God created us "male" and "female" – sexual identity is God's creation. Sexual intimacy is God creation, gift, and mandate.

It should not surprise us that sin has so distorted this aspect of our destiny. Satan does not give up a strategy that works, he doubles down. And He certainly has in our day.

May we be compassionate and gracious around issues of sexuality and sexual identity, but may we never be confused. And may our expression and experience of our sexuality, like reflecting God and co-ruling with God is to be lived in a manner that is..."... is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, worthy of praise..."

Our Destiny: we are made to reflect God's image, to co-rule with God, and to reproduce others who will reflect God's image and co-rule with God.

If I tried to put our nature and destiny into one sentence, I would say it like this

Made in God's image, I am of infinite worth and value, entrusted with an eternally significant work, to be done in relationship with God and others resulting in a life of helping others find life with God right now, and live with the certain hope that one day everything will be as God intended it to be, for His glory, forever.

I want to suggest that every statement in our renewed mission and values point us and compel us to this statement. This is "wholehearted" life in Jesus...because this is WHAT WE WERE MADE FOR!

Now, here is the bad news. Because of our fallen, sinful natures, we come into this world with a different paragraph, a different tape that plays in our minds from our first conscious thought to our last. And it goes like this...

I am deficient, defective and flawed, therefore I must keep others from seeing this, and I will strive to do whatever makes me feel significant, so that others value who I am, and I will try my best to make life bearable for me and those I love since it has never been nor will ever be what I long for most.

We may wonder, how is it that our thinking gets so flawed, distorted and contrary to what God so clearly reveals?

Our disconnected, disintegrated, fragmented hearts! A divided heart means a divided life. A disintegrated heart produces a disintegrated life. It can do no other, because the "heart" is the control center of our being, it is the "true" person that we are, it is "the wellspring of life" – ***what the heart is, the life reflects.***

We were made for this...our mission, values and strategy...