

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN



"By grace [God] becomes the Father of those whose Maker he already is."
— Athanasius (4th century)

Trying to build the brotherhood of man without the fatherhood of God is like trying to make a wheel without a hub.
— Irene Dunne (1904–)

On one occasion Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, the agnostic lecturer of the last century, was announced to give an address on hell. He declared he would prove conclusively that hell was a wild dream of some scheming theologians who invented it to terrify credulous people. As he was launching into his subject, a half-drunken man arose in the audience and exclaimed, "Make it strong, Bob. There's a lot of us poor fellows depending on you. If you are wrong, we are all lost. So be sure you prove it clear and plain."

— H. A. Ironside

"The fact that this world doesn't satisfy proves we were created for another."
— C. S. Lewis

CHAPTER 2 — "YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT" — SECTION 1

DIGGING DEEPER...

1. What kind of relationship between humans and God is asserted by Acts 17:28, "*for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*" What impact would a distorted concept of a father have upon a person's ability to relate to God? If you were trying to destroy the human race, of what value would it be to corrupt the concept of a father-child relationship?
2. "How would you advise a mother who was pregnant with her fifth child based on the following facts. "Her husband had syphilis. She had tuberculosis. Their first child was born blind. Their second child died. Their third child was born deaf. Their fourth child had tuberculosis. "The mother is considering an abortion. Would you advise her to have one?" How would Psalm 139:15-16 affect your answer? {Footnotes 2 and 3, p. 23} [L. V. Beethoven]
3. What does Isaiah 46:3, "*Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: 4 Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you*" reveal about God's commitment to people? {Footnote 10, p. 25.} How can you contrast God's dedication to people with our society's commitment to people? What contrasts do you see in this verse and our society's commitment to vulnerable people?
4. 1 John 4:8 states, "...*God is love.*" The author comments that "...[God] wanted to make you in order to express his love..." {p. 24.} When you think of God what do you think of? What comes to your mind?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. Of what significance is Rick Warren's comment, "God prescribed every single detail of your body...He also determined the natural talents you would possess and the uniqueness of your personality" {page, 22f.}? How can this statement be contrasted with the drive that people have to be achieve and keep up with everyone else?
2. Typically, what life experiences contribute to a person feeling like he or she is an accident? In your opinion, what kinds of consequences and symptoms exist that illustrate our society suffers from people feeling that they are without purpose and that their existence is merely by chance?
3. The author stated, "While there are illegitimate parents, there are no illegitimate children" {page, 23f.}. In your opinion, what role, if any, does illegitimacy play in a sense of futility and despair in our culture?
4. What areas of my personality, background, and physical appearance am I struggling to accept? {page, 26.} How has the absence of a purpose or feelings of a low estimate of my own worth affect my life negatively?