

## The Sermon in 10 Sentences or Less

### Becoming (Week 2) - Why:



1. The core question to the sermon was - What's your why?
2. Western culture is in the midst of what's been called a "meaning crisis," in which we lack a compelling, overarching "why" to live for.
3. We seem intent on discovering anew the wisdom of old Kingdom Solomon in Ecclesiastes: pleasure, money, accomplishment, legacy, etc., even in copious amounts, can never be anything other than "vanity" or "chasing after the wind."
4. Philosopher David Kelley contends that human beings must have both "small scale meaning" and "large scale meaning": however much we have small scale successes or enjoyments, e.g. a career achievement, a planned trip, family fun, it cannot fill the need for larger, deeper, more lasting meaning (a "why").
5. C. S. Lewis makes the case that a) we as human beings often settle for far less satisfying joys than those for which God intended us, and b) it is not possible to have enduring joy or happiness without God because enduring joy or happiness does not exist without God.
6. Into this meaning crisis our Reformation heritage speaks: the opening paragraphs of the Westminster Shorter and Heidelberg Catechisms tell us that the "why" of humanity is to glorify God, enjoy Him, belong to Him and live for Him.
7. It's not as if God is some insecure egomaniac who needs our constant praise and supplication, but instead it's for our benefit that we "glorify" Him, human beings need to live for, give themselves to, and bring honor to something (or Someone) bigger than themselves
8. Maybe the most surprising Christian "why" for human beings as stated in these Reformation catechisms is that we are to "enjoy God": what are the ways by which you enjoy God most, and how can you prioritize them in your life?
9. It's crucial to realize that these "whys" do not change over time: how you live them and what they look like in your life will, but these simple, deep purposes for you and me don't, they are as true for you at 18 as they are at 88.
10. Church "whys" don't change either, but how we go about them will over time (you can refer to the suggested weekly prayer below for how the PCUSA understands God's vision, or "why," for church).

### C. More On Why This Week

1) We opened the service yesterday by affirming "the great ends of the church." Pray these things for KW throughout the coming week, even perhaps daily:

"The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind, the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God, the maintaining of divine worship, the preservation of the truth, the promotion of social justice and goodness, and the exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world." (From The Book of Order, F-1.0304

2) Want to check out the backstory to that wonderful turn of phrase, "the joy of the Lord is my strength" (Nehemiah 8.10)? It occurs during a public worship and scripture reading gathering at which God's people thought they needed to contrite and lowly, and instead were told to be joyous: [Neh 8.1-12](#)

3) Find at least one way this week to a) honor or glorify God in a situation, b) just enjoy Him, c) remind yourself that you belong to God without fail each and every day, and d) live for Him in a specific situation or circumstance.

Likewise, you can focus in your personal prayer this week on these same themes: glorifying, enjoying, belonging to, and living for God.

4) Some reading this week:

- A short devotional on asking, "Will this glorify God?": [Glorify](#)

- One PCUSA pastor's reflection on "glorifying" and "enjoying" god: [Glorify and Enjoy God by David Layman – First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville](#)

- Check out how the PCUSA itself describes each facet of the "great ends" of church: [Presbyterian Mission Agency Living out the 'Great Ends of the Church'](#)

- More on human desire from C. S. Lewis (the first two are shorter reads; the last one is longer from the C. S. Lewis Institute):

[Nothing in this World: C.S. Lewis' "Argument from Desire" Through the Lens of History | by Missouri Baptist Univ.](#)

[My Reflections: C. S. Lewis's Argument from Desire and the Crisis of Meaninglessness](#)

[Argument From Desire - Lindsley K&DFa03.p65](#)