

Why Are We Here?

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Introduction:

A. We appreciate the beauty of this place.

B. I am glad to be here in spite of the responsibility of speaking today.

I. I want to speak on fear. (2 Timothy 1:7)

A. As a young woman I thought I had all the answers.

1. I don't.

2. A friend asked me why we are here.

a. She was adamant in that question.

b. Christians should know why we are here.

3. When we ask why are we here in terms of God's plan for our lives we have a resting place.

4. If we ask this question in terms of our own purposes we are intimidated.

a. Every role we find ourselves in seems too large for us.

b. Parenting is difficult.

c. Being a wife is difficult.

d. All seems to be beyond our control.

e. Life is just too big for our size.

5. Timothy was a timid man, frightened and filled with cowardice.

a. He may have been ready to quit ministry.

b. There are times when we want to run but this won't work because wherever we run to we are there.

c. Our inadequacy scares us.

d. Timothy was afraid but not because he was unequipped.

1. He had a wonderful Christian background.

2. He understood what Christian service was about.
 3. He knew his spiritual gifts came by the laying on of hands by the apostle Paul.
 4. This was a wonderful affirmation.
 - e. Timothy may have become ashamed of Paul because he was in prison.
 - f. Timothy may have craved affirmation from his successes.
 - g. Sometimes God sets ministers aside for his own purposes.
 6. Timothy was facing a difficult situation that is not unlike our own.
 - a. Immorality.
 - b. Darkness.
 - c. Hopelessness.
 - d. What good is one little light amid so much darkness?
 7. Men in Timothy's church were quarreling with each other.
 - a. This must have discouraged him.
 - b. It discourages us too.
 8. The women in Timothy's church were gabby, moving from house to house gossiping.
 - a. They had moved from being godly.
 - b. They had become ungodly.
 9. Timothy found no one capable of encouraging him.
 10. In this situation he became fearful and wanted to withdraw.
- B. Women are called to support pastors and to minister in our own ways.
1. In our homes.
 2. In our churches.
 3. In society.
 4. In schools.
 5. Our lives should be lives of ministry.

6. We are called to be light in the world, salt and light.
7. If we miss our calling we forget why we are here.
8. Our task is reconciliation, which is a great task.
9. Menial tasks like cleaning toilets is not beneath us but should be done to the honor and praise of Jesus Christ.
10. Jesus laid aside his deity to take on human flesh.
11. He didn't come as a charismatic guru people would look up to and follow with awe and wonder.
12. He came as a helpless child, dependent on her for life.
13. He came to save us.
14. He came in this way to demonstrate to us how to serve.
15. Does it matter how we serve?
 - a. Do we need to be liked?
 - b. Jesus was rejected.
 - c. A servant is not greater than his master.
 - d. When we get discouraged I have discovered I am depending on my own resources.
 - e. I didn't get a college degree because of circumstances.
 - f. Maybe I couldn't have handled it.
 - h. When I speak I feel inadequate, but God chooses the foolish things to humble the wise.
 - i. I am foolish but Christ makes me adequate.
 - j. We are all equal in the eyes of God.
 - k. We are all dignified in the sight of God.
 - l. Only as we compare ourselves with one another that we develop complexes.
 - m. We like to measure ourselves next to those with less gifting than us.
 - n. This doesn't work, however, because others are more gifted than us.
16. We need to stop judging ourselves by human standards, which is bondage.

- a. We need to maintain our relationship with God.
- b. We need to accept God's sovereign choices for us.
- c. He chose us and reveals his love to us in our successes and in our failures.
- d. My calling is how to fail successfully.
- e. I don't say this lightly because my failures have been monumental to me.
 - 1. I don't stand here today on the basis of my successes.
 - 2. I stand here on the basis of God's forgiveness.
 - 3. I know God loves me unconditionally.

C. When we ask why we are here we can do it from two perspectives.

1. Our own selfish perspective.

- a. This is frightening.
- b. We are left with self-preservation and self-promotion.
- c. This results in threatening and life is terrifying.
- d. We fear nuclear warfare.
- e. If we think we are responsible for our own self-preservation we are frightened.
- f. Drug abuse and alcoholism rises.
- g. Destruction could occur at the push of a button.
- h. Where do we go with the fear of accident or of illness or old age?
- i. The only context of safety is the sovereignty of God.
 - 1. I used to think of this as a threat to my own volition.
 - 2. I thought I needed to make all my own choices.
 - 3. Now I take refuge in God's sovereignty.
 - 4. My own choices injure me and others.
 - 5. God gifted us and leads us by his Spirit.
 - 6. We cannot think of one as superior to another.
 - 7. Our gifts are to be used with reverence and awe.

j. God is omnipotent and omniscient; all power and all wise.

k. I love the doxology of Paul. (Romans 11)

1. Who has known the mind of the Lord?
2. Who has been his counselor?
3. We can't counsel God to work in our way.
4. Our ends may be good but God knows how and when.
5. Our prayers cannot change God's wise counsel in our lives.
6. In prayer we learn how God works.
7. People we would never suspect may be the answer to our prayers.

l. A cartoon from Jews for Jesus Noah asked God if 1 million years is really one day, could you give me 1 million dollars for my building project. God said yes, just wait a second.

1. We need to learn patience.
2. I am still waiting on God for some serious prayers.
3. I am learning to trust him.
4. My own projections on who he is and who he ought to be need to go.
5. While waiting I'm learning more about myself.
6. I sometimes accuse God of being insensitive to me.
7. I needed to hear this in order to know my own heart.

m. In order to be free from our fear of self-preservation and self-fulfillment must be given to God.

1. We all need the freedom to fail in order to grow.
2. God is good to us and never leaves or forsakes us even when we don't trust him and are faithless.
3. He will correct us if we will be corrected.
4. He will comfort us if we will be comforted.
5. If we seek comfort from another source we lose the wonder of God's love.

6. Let's not trade off that blessing by seeking acceptance from any other source.

m. We share the glory of God's presence when we seek our acceptance from him.

1. God is there.

2. We only need to seek him.

3. God did not come to wipe us out.

4. God redeemed us so we could be somebody in his kingdom.

5. I have nothing to add to him but he has everything to add to me.

6. Do we consider his gift above all other gifts?

7. When we are in fellowship with him and surrender to him he makes wise choices for us.

2. When we ask why we are here from God's perspective we can trust him.

a. Let's decide that God has a purpose for us.

b. He is the one who can bring it about.

c. Under his control we can become whole.