

Explore God—Seven Big Questions

- 1. Does life have a purpose?**
- 2. Is there a God?**
- 3. Why does God allow pain and suffering?**
- 4. Is Christianity too narrow?**
- 5. Is Jesus really God?**
- 6. Is the Bible reliable?**
- 7. Can I know God personally?**

We all have questions: 757-298-7733

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31

Does life have a purpose?

- **Two options:**
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

The Problems with the Options

- **The problem with yes—where?**
 - **Concealed (inward)**
 - **Created (outward)**

“Look into my eyes and you will see what you mean to me. Search your heart. Search your soul. And when you find me there, you’ll search no more.”

—*Bryan Adams*
Do it for You, circa 1991

**“This is the best day of my whole life,”
said Joe Esposito, 52, who came from
Springfield, N.J., to place a range of bets,
including \$1,000 on the Jacksonville
Jaguars to win the Super Bowl.**

**“I’ve been in sports gambling my whole life.
I’ve lost millions of dollars doing it.
But this is a place you can do it legitimately.
And it’s right near the stadium!”**

**—*New York Times*
*September 10, 2018***

We're here to put a flag in
the ground and tell the world
that a better you starts with
a better water. It's about
drinking up more of life and
doing all the things that make
you extraordinary. **#EssentiaNation**

**“Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow
creeps in this petty pace from day to day to
the last syllable of recorded time, and all
our yesterdays have lighted fools the way
to dusty death. Out, out brief candle!**

**Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
that struts and frets his hour upon the
stage and then is heard no more. It is a tale
told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
signifying nothing.**

—Macbeth (5.5.22-31)

The Problems with the Options

- **The problem with yes—where?**
- **The problem with no—how?**

“When the Hubble space telescope pointed to a black spot in the sky about the size of an eraser head for a week, it found 30,000 galaxies over 13 billion years old with many trillions of stars and many many more inferred planets. So how significant are you? You are not a unique snow flake. You are not special.

You are just another piece of decaying matter on the compost pile of this world. Nothing of who you are and what you will do in the short time you are here will matter. Everything short of that realization is vanity. So celebrate life in every moment. Admire its wonders and love without reservation.”

—NY Times Comment Section

“If we are just a decaying piece of matter in a decaying universe and nothing more significant than that, how does it follow that we should live a life of love toward others? It doesn't. Why shouldn't we live as selfishly as we can get away with? How do beliefs in individual freedom, human rights and equality, arise from or align with the idea that human beings came to be what they are

through the survival of the fittest? They don't really. Russian philosopher, Vladimir Solovyov, sarcastically summarized the ethical reasoning of secular humanism like this, 'Man descended from apes. Therefore, we must love one another.'"

***—Tim Keller
Making Sense of God***

“You are home, really home.”

—*Alpha*

“Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy,

the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Does life have a purpose?

- **John's answer: Yes, life has a purpose. But life's purpose is not concealed or created; rather, it is revealed in creation.**

Does life have a purpose?

- **John's answer: Yes, life has a purpose
—“the Word”**

“Heraclitus saw the Logos as the divine agency and principle by which order is wrought out of chaos and unity is created within flux...It is the Logos that integrates and reconciles all opposites”

—Paul N. Anderson

Does life have a purpose?

- **John's answer: life's purpose is revealed—“the Word”**

And God spoke all these words, saying,

Exodus 20:1

Does life have a purpose?

- **John's answer: In creation—“In the beginning”**

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:1-4

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27

Does life have a purpose?

- **John's answer: Yes, life has a purpose. But life's purpose is not concealed or created; rather, it is revealed in creation that we reflect God's image into the world.**

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:27-28

Does life have a purpose?

- **John's answer: Yes, life has a purpose. But life's purpose is not concealed or created; rather, it is revealed in creation that as angled mirrors we reflect God's image into the world and reflect a world ordered by God's image back to God.**

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

John 19:5