

Fulfilling Your Life's Mission

By Bob Young

October 1, 2009

In the last couple of decades many secular and business organizations have placed an increased emphasis on defining their mission and vision. Happily, this emphasis has appeared “down at the church house” and many local congregations are also rethinking their purpose and reason to exist.

Another outgrowth of this emphasis on mission, purpose and vision is its application in individual lives. A few years ago a class series at the Pepperdine Lectureship was devoted to writing individual mission statements. Such exercises focus what may be the most important question of your life: “Why are you here?” Think about these questions: Why did God put you here? What does he want you to accomplish during your sojourn on planet earth? What are you uniquely qualified and able to do? What influence can you have? What good can you do? How will you change the world you touch?

Across 40+ years of ministry, I have observed that people thrive when they have a mission, and that life can become pretty lackluster and meaningless without a sense of purpose. Further, the mission that one identifies has to be worthwhile. Those who live only for comfort and pleasure seldom find life meaningful. I believe that lack of purpose is a major contributor to delinquency, materialism, selfishness, and boredom. Teens with a vision of their life mission usually sail through their teen years and become the kind of kids that give us hope for the next generation. Young adults with a mission often amaze us with their maturity. All in all, Christians with a mission make a difference—little by little in unassuming and unlikely ways, the world is changed by people of purpose.

One way to encourage this sense of mission is through exposure to books and movies that have big themes—people who overcome great odds, individuals who stand up to evil, brave souls who sacrificially live their lives for the sake of others (pretty good guidelines for choosing books, movies, and TV shows). Above all, this sense of purpose develops by learning about the heroes in the Bible.

Also helpful is the practice of actually sitting down to think about your life and writing a mission statement for yourself. Today let me encourage you to contemplate and pray about your life mission—regardless of how old you are! If you are going to be here at least one more day (none of us knows for certain!), God has a plan for what you can do to glorify him and fulfill his purpose in your life.