

**RECAP**

**This week's focus: The greatest need in the world is for people to hear about the Good News of Jesus.**

God formed ONE church to be on ONE mission to share His Gospel with every person on the planet. He used many individuals in the New Testament to take Christ where He had never been named. The apostles were each called to fulfill this mission in their own unique way. Peter was called to stay in Jerusalem ministering to the Jews and leading the church there. The ministry of Apollos was built on the foundation of others using his abilities of persuasion and public speaking to lead others to Christ. Lydia, the "merchant in purple cloth", leveraged the wealth she gained through her textile business ventures to financially support the work of the early church. The apostle Paul limited himself to places where people had never heard about Jesus.

Paul had an exclusive focus. But this had not always been the case. He spent a lot of time in Jewish synagogues, teaching church leaders, and ministering to the Jews. Over time however, he narrowed his life down to a specific ministry focus. He understood that his purpose in the world was grounded in what God had declared to be His purpose. Paul would declare that his ambition was to preach the Gospel, not where Christ has already been named, but so that, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

Paul had the confidence to say "no" to opportunities because he was sure of God's "yes" in his calling. So, he knew how to turn down good ideas for his life so that he could focus on the God ideas for his life. He discovered that God's purposes in Scripture are the foundation for his purposes in life. It was clear that God's agenda would set Paul's agenda for His life. Then God by His Spirit would use His unique gifting to accomplish that agenda.

God uses the same process for helping believers live out their life purpose today. A clear sense of purpose helps us make decisions. This two-part path of discovery is still at work as believers discern their God-given purpose in the world. To be on mission with God we must first understand God's mission revealed to us in His Word. Then, we must examine our priorities in light of God's mission to take the Gospel to every tribe, tongue, and nation. While there are many good causes to pursue, there is only ONE hope for every person in the world: hearing and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God has uniquely positioned and gifted each of us to be part of fulfilling His mission today. Like Paul, we are to be dependent on the Holy Spirit to show us our specific calling by helping us identify our gifts for the mission. We can never know our specific role in the mission until we understand the unique ways God has SHAPED (Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Passion, and Experience) us and the distinctive gifts He has given us for the mission. The journey of living on purpose starts with a simple prayer: "God what do You want to do in me so that You can work through me?"

Romans 15:14-22

**SHARE (5-10 min)**

1. Icebreaker Who am I? Place a name tag on everyone's back as they come in the door with a famous person's name on it (a well-known music artist, athlete, actor, book or movie character, biblical person, etc.). Have everyone ask yes/no questions of each other until they can guess whose name is on their back. Give extra clues to anyone who is stuck for too long.

**STUDY (about 30 min) Read Romans 15:14-22**

1. What about the message on Sunday was helpful? What was difficult to understand or confusing? If you were to summarize the message God was speaking to you in one word, what would it be?
2. How does the description of believers in verse 14 fit with how you view your own life? How much are you depending on the work of God in your life to speak to your ability to live a life pleasing to Him?
3. What does it mean for you to be accepted (v16)? How does your acceptance by God change the way you view others? Compare these thoughts with 15:7.
4. Verses 18 and 19 tell us about Paul's missionary credentials and practice? What can we learn from these verses when it comes to living out our God-given purpose?
5. What calling does God have on your life? What is your SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experience)? What has God given you to help you determine your calling and life purpose?
6. When you think about God's mission and your purpose in life what do you need to know to align with Him? What do you need to feel? What do you need to do?
7. How is the journey of ONE and reading through the biblical story of God's mission to save mankind impacting your personal walk with God?
8. Who is your "ONE"? Identify the ONE person in your life that you are praying would surrender to Christ in 2023.

**SUPPORT (15 min)**

Pray: "Here am I, Lord, send me! I understand your global purposes and want to be used by You in them. Show me what You would have me do when it comes to Global Impact at GateWay and reveal to me the specific callings and gifts You have given me to be used in Your kingdom."