



#1

LIVING

Galatians 2:20

1.3.16

Today we ask a big question: What does it look like to live a meaningful life; what does it look like to live life to the fullest? Or you can ask it negatively: What does it look like to *NOT* waste your life?

1. WHY DOES IT MATTER HOW WE LIVE?

• **First of all, without getting into specifics,** notice the thrust and theme of this verse Paul writes.

GAL. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

• **Leo Tolstoy:** “My question—that which at the age of fifty brought me to the verge of suicide—was the simplest of questions, lying in the soul of every man from the foolish child to the wisest elder. Without an answer to this question one cannot live, as I had found by experience. It was: “What will come of what I am doing today or shall do tomorrow? What will come of my whole life?”

Differently expressed, the question is: “Why should I live, why wish for anything, or do anything?” It can also be expressed as “Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?”

• **Maximus, in the opening scene of Gladiator:** “Remember, what we do in life echoes in eternity!”

• **ECCLESIASTES 3:11** “[God] has put eternity into man's heart...”

• **What Tolstoy knows, along with Maximus, Solomon, and Paul here in Galatians 2,** is that man has eternity planted in his heart. We have this deep sense that we are eternal beings: therefore, what we’re dealing with has eternal implications. “How we live today and tomorrow, at least in some sense, echoes in eternity!”

Let’s try and narrow the focus now to asking... **Q.** How should we live?

2. HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

• **Jimmy Hendrix** “I’m the one that’s got to die when it’s time for me to die, so let me live my life the way I want to.” **Nobel Prize winning playwright George Bernard Shaw once wrote,** “Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.”

• **Mmmmmmm: gimme dat, says most everyone. That’s ecstasy to our western world. *coolaid** “We can wield creative power, controlling our destiny by our will and actions, even determining what’s right and wrong for ourselves!”

• **But, what we’ve actually got when we take this view and live it out,** is essentially everyone living as if they’re the King. **Q.** What does a King do? **A.** determines laws, executes what he believes to be justice, is bowed down to and treated as most important, etc.

What we’ve got is a real-life Game of Thrones, with 7 billion people each thinking they’re the king!

This is the way most of us live, thinking this is the path to a meaningful life! Do you see it’s folly?

Q. What if this is all a lie? What if we’re built for something greater than trying to be a king among the rest?

- Interestingly enough, the Bible says the exact opposite is true when it comes to living a meaningful life.
- In fact, it's precisely *BECAUSE* we try to be the king that we live lives of insignificance + world's bad...
- The Bible says we're created not to be kings among the rest, but to know and serve the King of the universe. This is paradise; this is the path to true joy because this is what you're built for.
- In **John 17:3**, Jesus defines eternal life as “knowing Him.” *Abundant, meaningful, echoes beautifully in eternity life is defined by knowing your creator and living in harmony with Him.*
- The very reason paradise is lost is because Adam and Eve exchanged God's Kingship for their own.
- And truth is that we've all been living the same ever since. This is a definition of sin: seeking to be King.

Now we've come to a place where we can appreciate what Paul says to the church at Galatia.

GAL. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Paul's says, the way to live a meaningful, truthful, echoes through eternity life, is to live *NOT* for yourself. But to have your old self that longs to be king, *DIE*—“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live.”
- Paul's saying, “What it looks like to *NOT* waste your life is to live through *FAITH IN & OBEDIENCE TO* Jesus!” That's why he says, “The life I know live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God.”

ISAIAH 43:7 “everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed & made.”

- You exist for the glory of Jesus. How should we live? With our faith *IN* and obedience *TO* Him.

3. HOW CAN WE GET THE POWER TO DO IT?

- You know, saying that Paul means our old self needs to die and we need to trust and obey Jesus is really just scratching the surface of this verse.
- His meaning goes much deeper because our problems are much deeper than simply not living the way we should.

The truth is we have two great problems: We owe a debt to God we cannot pay, and we don't have the will to give up our sin.

Think of someone in slavery because of debt: In order to be free they needed two things—to be released from the debt, and to have the will to leave the service of their former master.

Q. What does Paul mean, “I have been crucified with Christ”?

Romans 6:6 We know that *our old self* was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

1Pet.2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

“We have been crucified with Christ...so that we would no longer be slaves to sin” means on the cross, Jesus was dying in our place to free us from both the *penalty* of sin and the *power* than sin wields over us.

YOU'RE BUILT TO PERSONALLY KNOW JESUS, THE KING

You'll never have the power to do it until you see and trust that He was crucified so you could be forgiven.

YOU'RE ALSO BUILT TO PERSONALLY OBEY JESUS, THE KING — for His glory and your joy!

The truth is, you'll never have the power to obey Jesus until you see that he not only died for your pardon, but also died to defeat sin's power in your life.

The true secret of how to get the power is to, in some way, think of yourself like a dialysis patient.

You'll never obey Him and live a life that echoes through eternity until you see, trust, and are melted by the fact that the King “loved *YOU* and gave himself up for *YOU*.”