

**Living a Fulfilling Life**  
**Being who you were created to be.**  
**1/13/2019 Sunday AM**

**Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

**Introduction**

- There have been a great number of “happiness” surveys that have been done over the years.
- Most of them find that only around 33% of people feel they are happy and satisfied with their lives.
- This depends on a lot of factors such as where the person lives, their financial situation, relationships...
- However, the numbers never change much year-to-year as they usually stay in the 30s.
- People are busier today than they ever have been, yet they seem to be leading less fulfilling lives
- This morning we will discuss **Living a Fulfilling Life: Being who you were created to be.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- **V.8-9** – Here Paul lays out the first step in leading a fulfilled life, and that is to be saved.
- In order for a person to understand that they need saving, they must first submit that they are in trouble.
- Once a person can admit that they need salvation, the “gift of God” is available for them to receive.
- Paul explains here that salvation comes “through faith” and not “from yourselves...not by works, so that no one can boast.”
- As human beings we do not possess the power of salvation within ourselves and there is nothing externally we can do to earn it ourselves either.
- The issue in our world today is that more and more people are not willing to submit that they have a problem and that they are in need of outside help.
- Instead, they walk in denial and try to compensate their shortcomings with “things of this world.”
- They seek their fulfillment from self-gratification and material possessions and endeavors.
- This has proven itself to be an empty path, that only leads to destruction.
- However, there are many people that wake-up and realize they need Jesus and they surrender their lives to him.
- In doing that, they take the first step in **Living a Fulfilling Life.**
- **V. 10** - Here Paul outlines the next step in the process and that is realizing that we are created with a purpose.
- We are “God’s workmanship,” that means that he is the potter and we are the clay!
- God himself created us and he didn’t do so for us to just exist in this world, he created us for a purpose.
- What is the purpose that we are “created in Christ Jesus?” “To do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
- The whole purpose in our creation was that we would do the good works that he prepared in advance for us to do.
- The reason that we often times feel unfulfilled, is that we are not living our lives in a way that matches what God prepared for us.
- Our lives only work right, when we operate in and how God created us to be.
- This dysfunction can be seen in our lives as individuals and as we come together corporately as well.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

<sup>12</sup>The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup>Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but

one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup>while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

- Here we see Paul teaching the Corinthian church how to operate as individual parts of a larger machine.
- He uses the human body as an illustration.
- In order for the body to function, all of the parts must work together, each one doing their own function.
- **V. 18** – This is a very important verse in this passage. We know from **Ephesians 2:10** we are all created for a purpose as individuals.
- Here in this verse, we see that God is the one that arranged all of the parts in the “body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”
- If all of the parts were not individually made with a purpose, and then were not arranged together to function as a whole, the machine would not operate.
- As Paul explained in these verses, every single part of the body is important, and none should operate as if it is more important or more honorable.
- The fact is that if only one part of the body is missing or not operating correctly, it affects the operation of the whole system.
- **V. 27** – Paul ends this illustration and brings it home to the people by enlightening them that he is speaking about “the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
  
- That is the point for this morning. Each one of you are a part in the body of Christ.
- If you want to live a life that has fulfillment and joy, then you need to make sure you are following the steps that I have outlined this morning.
- You need to be sure that you have turned your life over to Jesus Christ and that you are a born-again Christian.
- If you have done that, then you need to realize that you have been created by God himself with a plan and purpose for your life.
- It is that plan and purpose, that you must seek to understand so that you can operate in the way God created you.
  
- Your personal life as an individual, your home, your workplace, and this church are dependent on you operating in the plan and purpose that God created for you.
- The only way for you to find true fulfillment in this life is to operate this way, everything else will leave you feeling empty and useless.
- Here at UCC we want to give everybody the opportunity to be a part of this body and to function within it how God intended for you to function.
- That is the only way that we will continue to grow and make 2019 a more fruitful year than 2018!

## **Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study**

Romans 7:13-25