

John 14:12

Christ's Purpose Unites Us

Main idea: We are united by Christ's purpose to continue His work for His glory.

Most people, at some in their lives, struggle with their purpose.¹

- Some people never seem to find their purpose, but most do. [infographic]
- Our ultimate purpose is found as we rest in Jesus and follow His will for us.²

Read John 14:12

I've never served in the military, but I have a lot of respect for those who have.

- In every branch of the military, there's a chain of command.
- When you receive a command from a superior officer, you must follow it.³
- Jesus is our superior officer, He's our Lord, and we must follow His commands. [John 14:15]

So as Jesus was in the Upper Room with His disciples, He was giving them final instructions and challenges.⁴

- Even though Jesus would be leaving them soon, He gave them a mission.
- This passage shows that Jesus doesn't just call a few to serve; He unites all believers around one purpose: to continue His work in the world by sharing the message of the gospel.⁵
- We typically find these instructions from The Great Commission. [Matthew 28:19-20]
 - The Great Commission tells us what to do.
 - John 14 tells us how and why we do it: all of us together, through Christ's power and prayer.

We can often complicate the gospel, but it's actually quite simple. (v. 6)

- We come to the Father through Jesus.⁶
- We sinned, but Jesus saves. [Romans 6:23]
- And we're saved not just for ourselves, but for the purpose of reaching others. [1 Peter 2:9]
- We've probably all heard about Mother Teresa, who served the poor most of her life.
 - In 1946, while on a train, she experienced what she later called "a call within a call."
 - She felt God was calling her to leave the convent and serve Him among "the poorest of the poor." [quote]⁷

Christ's purpose continues through His people. (v. 12a)

- Jesus didn't say just "the apostles" or just "the pastors" would do as He had been doing.⁸
- He said "whoever believes" in Him would.
- And what "works" was He talking about?
 - Jesus's works include sharing the good news of God's grace. [Luke 4:18-19]
 - Jesus's works include showing compassion to the poor and sick. [Matthew 9:36]
 - Jesus's works even include healing the sick and bringing life to the dead. [John 11:43-44]
 - We might say that we can't heal the sick or raise the dead, but we'd be wrong.

¹ Proverbs 19:21

² Matthew 11:28-29

³ Matthew 8:8-9

⁴ Such as John 13:34-35 and John 16:33

⁵ John 17:18, 2 Corinthians 5:20

⁶ Ephesians 2:18, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 10:19-20

⁷ "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." -Mother Teresa

⁸ Acts 1:8, Ephesians 4:11-12

- As we point people to Jesus, the dead are raised. We were dead in our trespasses and sins.⁹
- As those who believe in Jesus, we're united in our purpose to carry on His purpose, so that the lost can be found, and the dead can be raised to life.¹⁰
 - Our unity comes not from our personalities, preferences, or traditions.
 - Our united purpose is in our calling to carry on the work of Christ.¹¹

In fact, we're called to do greater things than Jesus. (v. 12b)

- Abby and I used to attend a non-denominational church while we went to college. [photo]
 - At one point, the church hired a printing company to print a flyer for them that outlined what the Bible says about believers. [Philippians 4:13] [Romans 8:37]
 - And included in this list was John 14:12: "I can do greater works than Christ Jesus."
 - But the printing company called the church and said, "Is this a misprint?"
- "Greater" doesn't mean more miraculous than Jesus, but greater in scope and reach.
 - Jesus' ministry was local; but Jesus has given us a global ministry.¹²
 - And it's also kind of miraculous that we can do anything like Jesus at all! Jesus was and is God, and we're merely human.¹³
 - But because He went to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to empower us for ministry.¹⁴
 - When the church works together in unity, the reach of Christ's love multiplies throughout the whole world.¹⁵
 - How will you continue Christ's work this week?
 - Who in your life needs to see or hear Jesus through you?

⁹ Ephesians 2:1

¹⁰ John 20:21, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

¹¹ Matthew 28:19-20

¹² Acts 1:8

¹³ John 15:5, Ephesians 3:20

¹⁴ John 14:26, John 16:7

¹⁵ John 17:20-21, Ephesians 4:3-6