

SPEAKER: Drew Meyer and James Teutschmann

DATE: August 31, 2025

SERIES: DIFFERENT

Sermon Title

“Different Purpose”

Introduction

This week, we continued our series called **DIFFERENT**. We all can find ourselves looking at our lives and wishing things were different. Maybe it's the circumstances we find ourselves in, choices we have made in the past, things about ourselves, or maybe even who we are as a whole. We all can feel this desire to be *different*. But it's interesting that when it comes to faith, most people don't want to be different. We would much rather go along to get along, do what the others do, and remain “content” in where we are at now. Over the course of this series, we are going to be unpacking the book of 1 Peter, and learning about what it means for things to be different, not just in our lives but in our faith. This week we are taking a look at our **DIFFERENT PURPOSE**. Our purpose matters, and while the world may offer appealing answers, only God gives us the perfect answer. We are called to a **DIFFERENT PURPOSE**, one that will never leave us wondering “If I wasn't here, would it really make a difference?” To get started, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- If you could be widely known for any one thing, what would that thing be? It could be a skill, some accomplishment or achievement, something you created, etc.

Seek the Word

Read 1 Peter 2:15-17 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does Peter mean here by “doing good”? Look to the surrounding verses and what we have learned so far in this series to inform your answer.
- What does it mean to live as “God's slaves”? What does this terminology make you feel/think about your relationship with God?

Read 1 Peter 3:8 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- Talk about the importance of unity in the body of believers. What sorts of things can cause disunity among Christians?
- Peter calls the believers to “be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.” Which of these do you have the most difficulty living out? Why is that?

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- Have you ever heard a testimony of faith that stuck with you? What about that person made their story powerful?
- What does it mean to feel the need/burden/requirement to share your testimony with others? Is that something you feel?
- When you are challenged in your faith, how do you respond? Do you feel capable to defend your faith, and to do so in a loving way? Why or why not?

Going Deeper

- As a group, share some stories from the last few weeks about ways in which you have been living *DIFFERENTLY*. How have you seen this different living affect different areas of your life (work, family, friendships, other relationships, and your faith)? What has been your motivation to invest more focus into Living Differently?

Talk About It

- How do you define the purpose you were made for? Describe how your definition of your purpose has changed over the course of your journey as a Christian.
- The sermon this week broke down 3 ways that we are set apart in our purpose. We are set apart by our ACTIONS, our ATTITUDES, and our TESTIMONY. Out of these three ways, which do you feel is most *different* from the world's standards and rules, and which do you feel is not so *different*? What would have to change for that area to be more set apart?
- Do you revere Christ as Lord? Talk about what this word *revere* means, both in its definition and application. What does it look like in practice to revere Christ as Lord?

Wrap Up

Reminder: We are set apart to know Christ and show Christ. This is the purpose God has given to each and every one of us. As we feel the tension to be holy and set apart, understanding the “why” behind that is vital to staying firm to our faith and our calling. Through our actions, our attitudes, and our testimonies, we are able to put Christ on display and live out our purpose of showing Christ to others through our knowledge of Him. In doing so, we show people a **DIFFERENT** perspective on God: one of truth, love, grace, and freedom.

Challenge for the Week: This is YOUR Testimony

Set aside 10 minutes early into this week. Write out your answer to these 3 questions.

- Who was I before Jesus?
- How did I encounter Jesus?
- What has been the impact on my life since I accepted Jesus?

When you have your answers to these questions, share them with somebody as a way to practice sharing your testimony. You can choose someone else in your small group, a close friend or family member, or anyone else who you feel comfortable sharing with.

Prayer: Close your time together by praying for the Spirit to move in powerful ways in your group this week. Ask God to reveal the attitudes and actions that we have that are not a part of His call to holiness, and for the strength and courage to begin letting go of those things to follow our purpose. Also, take some intentional time to praise God for who He is: holy, set apart, loving, gracious, present, worthy of our love, praise and allegiance, and Lord of our Lives.