

# 2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

## Life Group Study Guide

Series • **Anchored: Essential Truths to Live By**  
Sermon Three • **Becoming Like Christ**

### “Anchored”

In this sermon series, we are learning three key truths to anchor our minds and hearts as we begin the new year. Although there are many truths we could focus on, these three answer basic life questions:

- What is real? *There is a living God.*
- How can I know? *He has revealed himself in the Bible.*
- Where do I find meaning in life? *True meaning is found in becoming like Christ.*

### Review

In our [first message](#), we focused on the truth that *there is a living God*. We emphasized that knowing God means having a relationship with him that is *personal* and *proven*. Our [second message](#) expanded on the idea that God has revealed himself in the Bible, which implies that we must listen carefully to God’s Word.

In this final third message, we will answer the question, “Where do I find meaning in life.” Our search for “meaning” must be tied to God’s purpose for our lives. So what is that purpose? God’s purpose for us is that we become like his Son Jesus Christ. Only as we become like Christ can we find true meaning, lasting joy, and ultimate satisfaction.

### Discovering God’s Purpose for Your Life

We discover God’s purpose for humans from the beginning to the end of the Bible. In the very beginning, when God declared his intent to create humans, he said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion . . .” Embedded in this little statement is the idea that God made humans to find *delight* in a relationship with him as they exercise *dominion* for his *glory*.

Since Adam and Eve rebelled against God, the *delight*-giving relationship was broken, and they could no longer have their God-given *dominion*. The outcome, of course, is that they no longer *glorified* God as they should (Romans 3:23).

As the only sinless human being, Jesus did all this perfectly. He lived in perfect *delight* doing God's will (Psalm 40:8; Hebrews 10:9). Therefore he exercises perfect *dominion* (Philippians 2:8-11; Revelation 19:16). Therefore, the more we become like Jesus, the more we will fulfill God's purpose for our lives. And the more we fulfill God's purpose for our lives, the more we discover "meaning"—that is, living as we were "meant" to.

In fact, that's exactly where human history is headed: redeemed humans who delight in their relationship with God and exercise perfect dominion for the glory of God: "He will dwell with them," the Apostle John writes, "and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God" (Revelation 21:3). Furthermore, as John goes on, "they will reign forever and ever."

Although that outcome is *guaranteed* for all believers in Christ, it is still *incomplete* in this life. It is a work in progress.

1. Read Romans 8:28-29. What kinds of circumstances do we find it hard to accept as "good"?
2. According to this passage, what is God's "purpose" for "all things" in our lives?
3. What are some ways we can remind ourselves that our tough circumstances really do contribute to God's final purpose for our lives?
4. What kinds of things do we tend to value over Christlikeness?
5. What can you do to stir in your heart a greater longing to become like Jesus?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. According to this verse, what can we do to be "transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another"?
7. If you had to compare the process of Christlikeness to either an oven or a microwave, which would you choose, and why?
8. Read Philippians 3:12 and 1 John 3:2. Based on these verses, what can we expect about the *timing* of Christlikeness in our lives?