



“My Life Portrait” – Personal Purpose

Purpose answers the question – **“Why do I exist?”**

Purpose is the deepest dimension within us – our core or essence. Our purpose describes who we are, where we came from, and where we are going. Purpose is the quality we want to center our work around, the way we orient ourselves towards life and work. Purpose is not merely a concept – it is a practice. Until we come to understand our core purpose, we will never discover true fulfillment in our work or contentment with what we have. *

Here are some examples of personal purpose statements:

- *Glorify God, as I help people to perform and lead at a higher level, to enable them to achieve their God-given potential. – Mark Deterding*
- *To be a student and teacher of simple truths. – Ken Blanchard*
- *To conform to the likeness of God’s perfect son and seek the fruits of daily discipleship. – Dan Malmstrom, CEO Douglas Scientific*
- *To teach children to love Jesus, to love one another, and to love learning. – Alexandra Stockdale*
- *To serve as a leader, live a balanced life, and apply ethical principles to make a significant difference. – Denise Morrison, CEO Campbell Soup*
- *Lift up people, make Jesus smile. – Brent Smith*

*Richard J. Leider, *The Power of Purpose: Creating Meaning in Your Life*

Developing your Personal Purpose

1. Capture your skills, competencies, and talents (things that you are good at). Examples might include: I speak well, I am creative, I enjoy organizing people and things, I am a problem solver, I coach well, I am a good listener, etc.

2. Capture the things that you highly value and / or hold sacred. Examples might include family, learning, spirituality, creativity, fitness, ethics, relationships, etc.

3. Prioritize the two lists that you have created from most important to least important to you. Then document below what you are most passionate about.

4. What legacy would you like to leave or how would you like to be remembered when you are “gone”? What would you like to accomplish in the future to make the world a better place in your eyes?

5. Considering all of your answers above, capture a short, simple statement that describes who you are, what you value, and how you utilize your skills and values.
