Munroe, Myles
In Pursuit of Purpose

18. The Source of Purpose

This chapter argues that life without God feels meaningless, because purpose comes only from the One who made us. It traces purpose back to God the Creator, then reveals that His deepest reason for creating humanity was to have sons and daughters who resemble His firstborn Son, Jesus, and who live in a loving Father-child relationship with Him.

Key takeaways

- The source of purpose is the mind of the producer. Cut off from God, people see life as empty (Shakespeare, Ecclesiastes); only returning to God restores meaning.
- God gives everything a purpose. Genesis shows He assigned a role to sky, land, lights, and humankind — everything was made for a reason.
- God is a 'predestinator before He is a creator': He sets the end (the purpose) before He begins, so purpose precedes creation.
- God's firstborn — called Wisdom in Proverbs, the Word in John — is Christ. God delighted in Him and wanted more children like Him; that is why He made us.

- We were created in Christ's image to share God's nature, holiness, and glory (His true nature at its perfection). Holiness isn't developed but uncovered, since it's already God's nature in us.
- Sin broke this relationship, but God perseveres. Jesus came to reintroduce God not as Creator or Judge but as Father — 'Abba, Daddy.'
- David models the goal: a man after God's heart who brought God both his triumphs and failures. God wants that kind of intimate, obedient relationship, caring about the heart, not outward standing.
- Knowing and following your God-given purpose is the key to a meaningful, joy-filled life.

Passages worth keeping

> *"God has no desire for Christians, but for sons and daughters who share His interests, perspectives, and visions."*

Reframes the goal from religion to a family relationship that mirrors Jesus and the Father.

> *"God predestines everything so that the purpose precedes the destination."*

The chapter's core claim about how God works — purpose first, creation second.

How it connects

The chapter ties the Genesis creation account to Christ (Proverbs' Wisdom, John's Word) and to our adoption in Ephesians, showing one unbroken purpose: God wanting children who bear His likeness. David (Acts 13:22) is held up as the pattern of that intimate Father-child life.

Scripture referenced

- **Ecclesiastes 1:2-3,11,14** -- Life's emptiness 'under the sun' without God.
- **Genesis 1:26-28** -- Humans made in God's image, given purpose to fill and rule the earth.
- **Proverbs 8:22-25,30-31** -- Wisdom as God's first work and daily delight — identified with Christ.
- **John 1:1-4,10,12** -- The Word (Christ) through whom all was made; believers become children of God.
- **Ephesians 1:4,10** -- God chose us before creation to be holy and to be His family under Christ.
- **John 3:16-17** -- God's love and plan to restore His children through His Son.