



Life Principles Notes™

Living the Extraordinary Life

Part 2: You Are God's Masterpiece

Summary:

Have you ever had a professional artist paint your portrait? What would such a canvas reveal about its subject?

Believe it or not, you are a living portrait finely crafted by the almighty hand that shaped the universe. The Word of God says that each of us is His masterpiece, fashioned to shine in this world and glorify His name. You are His work in

progress, and He gazes upon you with the eye of the master artist. He sees what you do not: the extraordinary life that you are intended to live.

However, before we can begin to live such a life, we must learn to see ourselves in the same light as the heavenly Father sees us. Ephesians 2:1-10 offers the view of our personhood from the Lord's perspective—each one of us is a masterpiece now and forever, an extraordinary achievement of the Creator's art.

Scriptural Principles:

1 God's Masterpiece: Your Life.

What do we mean when we use the word “masterpiece”? In art as well as in life, it refers to a work of notable excellence. An author, artist, or craftsman of any kind can create a masterpiece—an unusually brilliant feat that will stand as his crowning achievement.

Ephesians 2:10 says that “we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” This Scripture applies to every single believer. In other words, if you live under the lordship of Jesus Christ, you can plan your steps and your work to fulfill the purposes that the Lord designed in advance, specifically for your life. You can also look forward to becoming a person of extraordinary significance who is God's masterpiece.

2 God's View of Your Life.

Many people find it difficult to view themselves as works of notable importance. When they look upon themselves, they perceive flaws and failures because they are gazing at an unfinished portrait. One of the greatest and most significant challenges you must undertake is to see yourself as God sees you. From the perspective of heaven, when the Lord looks at you, He sees the finished product—His completed masterpiece. You are being transformed by the living God into the likeness of His Son. In this life, we are all far from that final goal. But someday we will leave this earth and enter heaven as the creatures we were predestined to be since before the foundation of the world. The heavenly Father sees you even now as you will be then, a complete and perfect work, attaining the purity of holiness. That is why you can be called a masterpiece.

3 God's Plan for Creating a Masterpiece of Every Believer.

All through the Scriptures, we find evidence that the Lord planned for us to be His masterpiece. Genesis 1:26 tells us that we were created by God in His own likeness. That places you and me, as human beings, in a category above all other creatures. We were made in His image so that we might have a relationship with our Lord and Creator. Jeremiah 29:11 promises us that He has a plan which offers us a future and a hope. We read in Ephesians 1:4 that God chose us “before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.”

Finally, Romans 8:29 gives us the incredible assurance that God knew us even before the creation, and planned all along for us to be “conformed to the image of His Son.” His will for you is that you grow into the likeness of Christ.

4 God’s Patience for Creating a Masterpiece of Every Believer. Our goal is a life in which Christ dwells—one that manifests His presence in our actions, our words, and our very being. It is the kind of life that leaves a lasting impact on others. But no masterpiece is created instantaneously. We must be patient with regard to the work God is doing in us. Though He already sees us as a “finished product,” we must endure a process of transformation. This “sanctification” begins at the moment of rebirth, when a person becomes a new creation in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Once the old things have passed away, we have a love for God and want to walk in His presence. What changes at that moment is our position before God: with our adoption into His family, we hold all the benefits of that position.

5 God’s Process for Creating a Masterpiece of Every Believer. Many benefits come with our position in Christ. First, we have become new creations in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Therefore He is our life, as we read in Colossians 3:4. We have been raised to walk in newness of life, which means a new lifestyle. (Romans 6:4) We have a new family, according to 1 John 3:2, and as such are joint heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:17) Second Peter 1:3 explains that we have the divine nature of God within us—an awesome promise! We have a new authority (Ephesians 2:6) and a new power (Acts 1:8), as well as a new security in knowing that He will never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5) We have a new purpose: to bring glory and honor to God. (Ephesians 1:12) Our new destiny is to spend eternity in the presence of the living God. (2 Corinthians 5:8)

6 God’s Purification in Creating a Masterpiece of Every Believer. Just as a great artist labors with the final result in mind, God works in us to transform us into works of “notable excellence.” Like the painter who wipes away colors that do not belong on the canvas, God, in the same way, attends to the work of purifying our lives by revealing things that do not fit His masterpiece. In some cases, struggles and the suffering of godly discipline may be required to break us from our old patterns of self-destruction. When God’s Spirit exposes our sin and impurity they can be removed allowing us to better illustrate the shining message of Jesus Christ.

7 God’s Purpose to Create a Masterpiece of Every Believer. What is the purpose of you becoming a masterpiece? Ephesians 2:10 makes that clear: You are God’s workmanship, created to do good works that He prepared in advance specifically for you. Long before you were born, even before this world was here, the Lord had a plan for you—a plan designed for your well-being. You can be confident in doing the works He has fashioned for you, because His purpose includes equipping you for whatever He calls you to do. This includes living the extraordinary life that He envisioned for you from the very beginning. Never be afraid, for if your task is assigned by God, He will give you everything you need.

Conclusion:

If you believe the inspired Word of God, you can never again deny the fact that you are a masterpiece. You are a notable and noble work of the Living Lord of the universe. You are the crowning achievement of all His creation, and you were made for a special purpose.

I pray that you will understand once and for all that you need not live another moment chained to your past. You need not see yourself as a marred or unfinished canvas. Instead, regard yourself as your heavenly Father does: you are an

extraordinary creation—a life that shines with the purity of Jesus Christ. That is how God sees you because of the atoning sacrifice of His blessed Son.

You can live in that light from this day on, devoted to your special purpose of bringing glory to God’s name. Ask Him today to reveal how He would like you to serve Him. Make this week, this year, and your lifetime the masterpiece that He already sees through His everlasting love for you. ✚

Contact us:
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