

# ONWARD

from the desk of Chris Greer



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Morning, . Chris here, with Part 3 of this brief ONWARD series. ☐☐

So...do you ever wonder why you're here?

Discerning the meaning of life is one of the great privileges (and challenges) of being human. Donkeys, dogs, and ducks don't wonder about their destiny. Why not? Because they can't.

We can, however. And God intends us to.

In 2017, we left our home, family, and my work as a pastor in California to set up camp in Central Arkansas.

Our new, slower pace of life — in a place where we knew nothing and nobody — provided ample opportunity for me to talk with God about my past, present, and future. As we conversed, I asked for his help to discern and draft a personal "Why" statement.

I soon stumbled across Simon Sinek's book, *Find Your Why*. Though not a Christian author, Sinek draws on God's truth that we're all here on purpose, for a purpose. The crucial question is *Why*?

**Knowing our "Why" (as the Church and as individual Christians) is a key to our full participation in his kingdom come and his will done.**

So in this final installment of our ONWARD decision-making series, we'll focus on our Why, and how it helps us get unstuck so we can keep moving onward with Jesus.

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## quote of the week

"We can go through life hunting and pecking, looking for opportunities... hoping that something connects. Or we can go through life with intention, knowing what our piece looks like, knowing our WHY, and going straight to the places we fit."

— Simon Sinek

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The Scriptures and our ancestors clearly articulate the Church's corporate, or

communal, Why.

In Isaiah, God said, *"Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them."* (Isaiah 43:7)

Paul later wrote, *"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."* (1 Cor 10:31)

And the Westminster Shorter Catechism (a 17th-century church theology document) begins with this question and answer:

- *Question: What is the chief end of man?*
- *Answer: **Man's chief end is to glorify and enjoy God forever.***

Everyone's ultimate Why is to glorify and enjoy God.

Additionally, I believe God can also provide a more specific, individual Why.

Jesus said, *"Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit."* (John 15:4) Discerning your Why can help you remain in him and know one specific way the Spirit bears fruit through you.

Figuring it out requires more discernment than ["Do Something"](#), and a different kind of discernment than developing an ["umbrella"](#). But if you ask, God can and will guide you to it.

Here's my Why:

*God designed me to help people hear, understand, and know God so they can live their real lives.*

My Why — along with my Umbrella — keeps me focused on what God made me to do. When I'm helping people in my family, community, church, and wider audience to hear, understand, and know God, I glorify and enjoy God. Every time.

I wonder...What's your Why? And your Umbrella?

If you don't know yet, rest assured that you aren't left out. God gave every Christian, everywhere a place to start.

**Every Christian's Why is Glorify God and enjoy him forever, and every Christian's Umbrella includes Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples.**

No matter how God specifies your personal Why, it will *always* fall under and in line with these. If it doesn't, then it's not from God.

So, in light of the vast array of needs that need attention and opportunities that could be taken, we don't have to be paralyzed by indecision, fear, or overwhelm. You can get unstuck and move onward with God when you...

- *Do something.*
- *Do one thing.*
- *Stay under God's Umbrella.*
- *And live out God's Why.*

After all, God designed you to. The rest of us need you to. And you will have the time of your life with Jesus if you do.

Onward,

Chris

P.s. In case I forget to tell you... You do NOT have to be in full-time ministry to know and live by a God-given Why! God can direct you in specific ways regardless of your location, family makeup, career, or stage of life.

He designed us to glorify and enjoy him, to love him and others, and we can pursue all those things, in every area of our life, with or without knowing a specific, personal Why.

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## dad joke of the week

What do you call a sad cup of coffee?

Depresso.

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