



Lesson 7: Made on Purpose

Main Point

God created you on purpose, and your gender is an intentional part of God's design and plan for you.

Scripture: Psalm 139:13-16 NLT

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body

and knit me together in my mother's womb.

Thank you for making me so **wonderfully complex!**

Your workmanship is **marvelous**—how well I know it.

You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

You saw me before I was born.

Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out

before a single day had passed.

Exploring the Scripture:

- What does this passage tell us about how God created your body?
- What does this passage tell us about God's plans for your life?
- How does the way God designed you relate to the purpose he has for your life?
- How does being a man or woman allow you to reflect God's character to others?

Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-20 NLT

With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; **they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.** They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

But that isn't what you learned about Christ. **Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him,** throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. **Put on your new nature, created to be like God**—truly righteous and holy.

Exploring the Scripture:

- What does this passage tell us about why we may question our identity?
- What role does the Spirit play in forming our identity in Christ?
- What does it mean to "throw off your old sinful nature" and "put on your new nature, created to be like God"?

Applying It to My Life:

Let's focus again on body image and gender. In your journal, create two lists: one labeled "throw off" and one labeled "put on." With your group, write your answers to the following questions in each list.

- What are some of the sinful habits, beliefs, and tendencies around body image and gender that we need to "throw off" as we follow Jesus?
- What truths about your new nature as a child of God do you need to "put on"? (Make a list of truth statements and promises about your identity from Scripture.)

Practice:

As we study God's Word together, we have been using the Observe-Interpret-Apply technique to guide us.

- **Step 1:** Begin your time with prayer.
- **Step 2:** Read the passage silently, then aloud.
- **Step 3:** Observe what is going on in the text: Who, what, when, where?
- **Step 4:** Interpret the meaning of the text: What does it tell us about God, Jesus, and people? What did it mean to its original audience?
- **Step 5:** Apply the text to your life.
- **Step 6:** End with prayer.

Re-read John 3:16-21. Recall your observations and interpretations from the past two weeks. Then use the following questions to **apply** the passage:

- How does this passage challenge how I see God, myself, or the world around me?
- What does God want me to do differently because of what I have read?