FINDING MY PURPOSE EXERCISE

Every pastor has a grounding purpose. There’s a reason why you were called into ministry and your church. Following that purpose in a healthy way allows your ministry to become healthy. That purpose, that WHY*, is still part of why you are in ministry.

Unfortunately, we can become confused or forget what our original purpose and calling is. We get overwhelmed by the complexity of ministry, as well as the uncertainty of it. When that happens, we may fall prey either to focusing on doing what makes people complain less, or on imitating what other pastors are doing, meaning we move further away from our original purpose.

The following exercise is designed to help you begin to understand what your purpose is, so that you can listen better for God’s call in how it is to adapt to a changing culture around you.

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE:

• Reflect on what it is you felt and experienced that led you to explore ministry:
  o What was that “golden experience” of your life that led you to consider that God may be calling you to ministry?

  o What were the qualities, aspects, and skills about you that you thought God might be seeking in calling you?

• Reflect on your answers to the previous questions, and try to finish this sentence [it can be long]:
  o Reflecting back on my experiences, what gave me the greatest sense of meaning was to ___________________________
  o This sentence should focus on a general grasp of what seemed to give a sense of meaning, while also being specific, and it should avoid using overly vague

* Based on Start with Why, by Simon Sinek.
religious language in this such as “spread the gospel,” or “Incarnate Christ in the community.”

- Take time to reflect on your previous answers and try to complete this sentence:
  - I have flourished most when ________________________________?
  - This sentence should be focused on a general statement of what you were doing tangibly in mission and ministry and life.

- Reflecting on your previous answers, try to complete the following:
  - My purpose is to ________________________________

    Which is lived out when I ________________________________

    ________________________________

Now, reflect on how this can concretely be embodied in each area: your personal life, preaching and worship, pastoral care, leadership, ministry, and mission.