

WHO OWNS YOUR LIFE

Sylvester Onyemalechi

The subject of who owns the life that we live is an interesting one. Many times I hear people say, "It is my life", "You can't tell me how to live my life", "I have every right to live the way I want to". Who actually owns your life? Who actually owns that life that you call your own? Is it you or God or someone else? If you are the owner, then you have every right to live it the way you like – going where you like, associating with whomsoever you chose, dressing the way you like and conducting yourself the way that appeals to you. If the life you call your own is proven not to be your own, it means you have no right to live it the way you like but the way the owner of the life wants.

That life you have and are living, is it really your own? Let us examine some scriptural passages from the Bible to see the answer to this question.

We were created by God so He owns us.

Gen 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

NIV

God made man from the earth and breathed into him the breath of life. God gave man spirit from Himself to enable man live and act in the likeness of God. He empowered man to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. So man comes from God and can only survive and function effectively when in good relationship with God. Disconnected from God, man will be a failure. According to the above passage, the life of man is from God. He that created you owns your life. God owns your life.

We were created for God's pleasure – to please Him and through it bring Him honour and glory.

Rev 4:11

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

KJV

You were created according to this scripture for God's pleasure. The ultimate purpose of God creating man is that man through his life will bring Him pleasure. To live for God's pleasure is to please God daily with your life. It is to make God happy with your life. It is to live in such a way that God is glorified and honoured. You were not created just to live for your own pleasure or the pleasure of another, but for God. When you please God and

not man, you will be happy also. So, if man is not to live for his own pleasure but for the pleasure of God, it means he does not own his life and he cannot live just as he likes.

Christians are not to live for themselves but for the glory of Jesus.

2 Cor 5:15

15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

NIV

We have seen that by creation we were created for God's pleasure, Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit tells us in the above passage that we were redeemed for (Christ's) God's glory. Jesus died that those who live in Him should no longer live for themselves but for Jesus who loved them so much that He died in there place. This means that you as a believer do not own your life, for if you do, you will not be expected to live it for Jesus but for yourself. He died and gave you His life, so the life you are living is not your own.

God owns you so you are not your own.

1 Cor 6:17-20

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

KJV

1 Cor 7:23

23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

KJV

These two passages also confirm that God owns your life by reason of the fact that Jesus purchased your salvation with His precious blood. This redemptive sacrifice legally makes Him the owner of your life. The Bible declares: "*and ye are not your own*", "*ye are bought with a price*", "*therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's*". The call is for you the believer to live for God's glory because you don't own "your life". Your spirit, soul and body belong to God. All you are, have and will ever be or have belongs to God. Your today and tomorrow belongs to God. You don't live for yourself but for God. It is not your will but God's will. You are not to serve men or live for their pleasure, but for God because He owns you.

Your life is Jesus Christ's life and not yours.

Col 3:1-4

*3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 **When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.***

NIV

Jesus Christ is your life if you are born again. The Life you live as a believer is not yours, but Christ's. You shouldn't live anymore as if it were your own. It is not your life but His life. The passage didn't say, "When Christ who is in your life, appears", but "**When Christ, who is your life, appears**". He is not just in your life, He is your life. The Life you are living is His and not yours. So live the way He wants you to and not the way you want to.

Now that it has been proven by the scriptures that the life we call our own is not really ours but God's, it is important that we learn how to live this life that God the owner be satisfied.

HOW TO LIVE GOD'S LIFE

1. Determine to live for God's glory and not yours or another's.

1 Cor 10:31

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

KJV

In all that you do, even in eating or drinking do all to the glory of God. Let your words and manner of speech be to God's glory. Dress and package yourself to God's glory. Go where God will be glorified only. Do only that which will glorify God. In your relationships including your marriage relationship, seek God's glory. Develop and nurse desires that glorify God only. Associate with people that seek God's glory and make sure all you do together is such that will honour and glorify God. You must keep away from all that the word of God condemns as sin and evil. Do only that which God approves and keep away from that which he hates. And if you have the same life and spirit with God, definitely you will love what God loves and hate what He hates.

2. Submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit who knows the mind and plan of God for your life and the universe and was sent into the world for the purpose of leading God's people.

Rom 8:14

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

NIV

Let the Holy Spirit lead you in the way of God that your life may be well lived and bring God pleasure and glory. He knows what God wants. He knows the Father's will and plan and He has been sent to guide us in the will and plan of God for our lives. Note that only those who are led by the Spirit are true sons of God. The Holy Spirit cannot lead you to resent, hate, steal, cheat, fornicate, lust, commit adultery, lie or beat up your wife. He will never lead you to do evil. He will only lead you in the path of righteousness. Surrender to the Holy Spirit and you will live for God's glory.

3. Seek God's will and do it with joy.

Eph 5:15-21

*15 Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.** 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. 19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

NIV

Now that it is clear that we are not to live for ourselves but for God, it is therefore necessary that we seek out God's will and walk in it all the time. It is also important that you as a believer do not go against the revealed will of God.

STEPS TO DOING THE WILL OF GOD

1. Make up your mind to do God's will.

Heb 10:7

7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

KJV

2. Seek God to know His will at all times in all things and do it.

Ps 143:10

10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

KJV

3. Delight to do His will – Enjoy doing God's will.

Ps 40:8

8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

KJV

4. Pray that His will be done only in your life.

Matt 6:10

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

KJV

5. Submit to His will even when it is not convenient for you or contrary to your desire.

- Be ready to accept His will when it is revealed to you or things don't work out as you wish that they turn out.

Matt 26:42

42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

NIV

