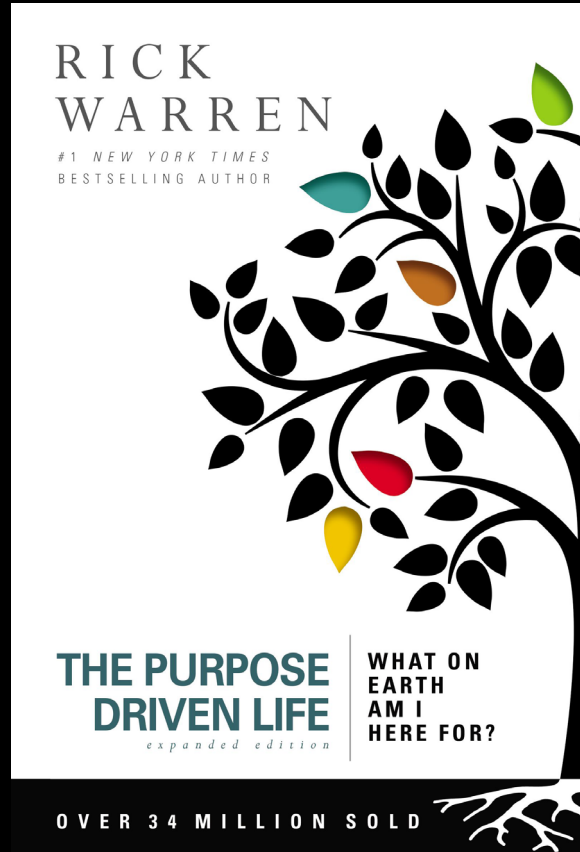


Unness book summaries and balanced review - Rick Warren *The Purpose Driven Life*



Who is this book for? Our view:

1. Christians who want to evolve their faith further
2. Non Christians who want to actively understand the Christian view on purpose

Who is this book not for?

1. People who want a detailed non religious process for purpose
2. Atheists/extreme non believers

What does the book say? A quick summary (If you want a fuller summary please e-mail info@uuness.com)

1. God designed you for a purpose, a specific purpose he chose your race, colour, creed and circumstances to that end.
2. You are here to serve God and a community – and actively create a community which is called “Your Ministry” – finding “Your Ministry” will give you your purpose on earth.
3. You have a specific message to give to the world based on your experience.
4. By developing a closer relationship with God and Jesus, your purpose will become clearer
5. Don’t be thrown off by envy or greed or criticism from others.
6. Don’t be thrown off by a desire to be popular it is “Satan’s’ tool”
7. Use the acronym “Shape” to help you find God’s purpose for you:
 - Spiritual gifts – what are they?
 - Heart – listen to what it says
 - Attributes – be realistic, right them down
 - Personality – what are your strengths and weaknesses?
 - Experiences – what unique experiences have you been given that you use?

Quotes from the book we liked

1. "It's not about get the most out of life, it's about adding most"
2. "You are as happy as you choose to be"
3. "Most people live their lives in quiet desperation" Henry Thoreau
4. "Who are you going to life live for, yourself or God?"
5. "God is more interested in what you do than who you are"
6. "While we worry about how fast we grow, God is concerned about how strong you are"
7. "If my life is fruitless it doesn't matter who praises me and if my life is fruitful it doesn't matter who criticizes me"
John Bunyan
8. "Worldly Christians look to God primarily for personal fulfilment, they will be saved but they are self-centred"
9. "Envy leads to huge emotional cost with little pay off"
10. "Envy is the enemy of contentment. It says I've always got to have more, more possessions, more prestige, more pleasure and more popularity".

Balanced review of the book

Where the book is strong

- It's a book full of accessible wisdom in layman's language, very readable
- It brings Christianity to "life"
- Rick Warren is clearly well-intentioned with the book and walks the talk in his life extensively
- Believers will find many ways to be closer to God in a "true Christian manner" and lots of Bible quotes/stories
- Giving you multiple perspectives to look outside yourself and find ways to become closer to God
- Practical lessons on what stops people finding their purpose/watch-outs and some useful self-evaluation tools.

Areas where it is weaker

- From our perspective the book does not provide a robust process to look at your life in detail, find points of flow and unconscious hints but to be fair, that's not the book's context
- However – given the book's title we feel this is a genuine hole in the text
- Only one chapter devoted to finding purpose per se – with one acronym "Shape" which we feel is light
- Can you find purpose without God? The answer is no – this may challenge many
- There's little science in the process of purpose here e.g. semiotics or psychology
- Practical lessons on what stops people finding their purpose/watch-outs and some useful self-evaluation tools
- What about those from other faiths?