



Here is a relevant message from Pastor Rick Warren, author of **Purpose Driven Life** and Pastor at Saddleback Church. It speaks to us in a way that may also help us understand and connect to our new direction in America.

Your Mission Comes from God Himself

By Pastor Rick Warren

"In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world." (John 17:18 MSG)

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, God has given you a mission in this world. You're not here to just take up space; you're not here to just strive after your own personal goals.

You have an assignment from God himself. Once you're in the family, your life changes. You have a new reason for living. Your life isn't about you anymore; it's about God's mission.

And your mission fits into God's mission for all of history. God created everything in the universe because he wanted a family. He didn't need Earth. He didn't need the other planets. He didn't need the stars. He created all of it because he knew some of us would willingly choose to be a part of his family.

The mission God gave Jesus he now gives to the Body of Christ the Church. He wants us to help get other people into his family. Jesus said it like this: "In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world" (John 17:18 MSG).

Once we know Jesus, we have to go! We must tell our friends and families about him. But we can't stop there. God has never made anyone he doesn't want saved. He loves everyone across the entire globe.

God wants us to live out his mission everywhere: in our families, our communities, and our world. His mission for your life is both global and local. The Bible says, "Now the Lord says to me, 'It isn't enough for you to be merely my servant. You must do more than lead back survivors from the tribes of Israel. I have placed you here as a light for other nations; you must take my saving power to everyone on earth'" (Isaiah 49:6 CEV).

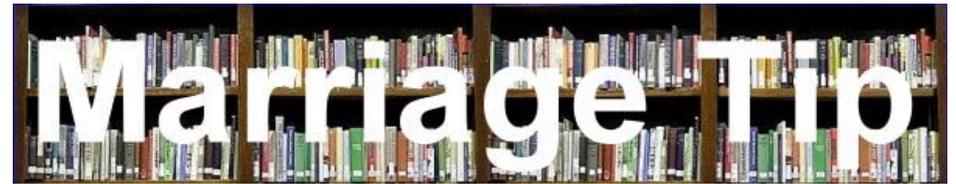
That's God's plan for the world. That's his mission for you. He wants everyone on Earth to know him. And he wants to use you to see that happen. God didn't just say that to missionaries or pastors. If you're in his family, he gave his mission to *you!*

Talk About It

- Is it possible that you need to change the way you live in order to follow God's plan? If so, what would that look like in your life?

- How will you be on mission with God this month?

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The "One Minute" Secret To A Happier Marriage

By Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott

Inside information, based on scientific research, can be a wonderful thing. In an instant you can get a tip or guidance that can change your life forever. In a relationship area like a marriage, a helpful tip can make you happier, more fulfilled, and even healthier. It could literally help you enjoy a better life now and years into the future. Check this one out.

The "One Minute" Secret

When you both return home after a day of work, before you do anything else, spend 60 seconds sharing a hug and a kiss, looking into each other's eyes, and talking.

It's this simple: when you come in the door, FIND YOUR SPOUSE. Go to him or her and offer 60 seconds of affection and attention.

If you're the first one home, when your spouse arrives, stop what you're doing and give your mate 60 seconds of affection and attention.

What happens between you on a subconscious level is extremely important.

Pressing your bodies together, focusing on each other for a full 60 seconds (and that is longer that you think) soothes your subconscious.

It says warmth, home, love, and security in a very primal way.

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I suggest you do it in the morning as well before you go out the door. – Jim Stephens

Parenting Tip

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)

There are many thoroughly researched personality profiles available and these can be used as valuable tools to help parents. One really significant value is that they can help parents get beyond thinking that there is something WRONG with their child and that they need FIXING or they need to CHANGE because they are different than the parent.

People are extremely different. By accepting and appreciating our differences and valuing them, we can become much happier in all of our relationships, especially with those closest to us.

This is an overview of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). It is the most popular and widely respected personality assessment instrument in the world, translated into many languages.

Here are the four **General Principles**:

1. Each person is born with one true type. Everyone changes greatly as he/she grows and matures, however the "Type" usually remains fairly consistent.
2. All types are equally valuable. None is better or worse, healthy or sick, intelligent or unintelligent. All have strengths and weaknesses.
3. Every individual is unique. The MB "Type" gives only insights.
4. The MB "Type" is a great tool to better understanding and appreciation of others who may be very different in small or great ways.

The MBTI assesses FOUR DIMENSIONS of Personality Type which are the important aspects of personality. The dimensions represent four scales or continuums, with two ends and a midpoint. Each person has an inborn preference for one side or the other of each of the continuums.

Find out your style and that of each family member at this URL:
<http://www.themarriagelibrary.com/Resources/Myers-BriggsPacket.pdf>

There is a book titled: **Just Your Type**. It goes into great detail about each type and how they best relate to every other type. This can be very helpful for parents and children or support with matching.

The FIRST DIMENSION is known as the **Extraversion-Introversion** scale. This concept is probably familiar to you. This dimension answers the question, "Where do you get your energy?"

Extraverts (E):

- * Prefer being around people.
- * Are interested in many things.
- * Have lots of friends, associates.
- * Jump into things pretty quickly.
- * Are usually pretty talkative.
- * Are more public and easier to get to know.
- * Are enthusiastic and outgoing.
- * Represent about 55% of US pop.

Introverts (I):

- * Are comfortable spending time alone.
- * Are selective and like to focus on one or a few things.
- * Have a few very close friends.
- * Think about things before they act.
- * Are usually fairly reserved.
- * Are more private and harder to read.
- * Appear calm and self-contained.
- * Represent about 45% of US pop.

You could probably put yourself somewhere along a continuum using these two descriptions. Reminder, all types are equally valuable. None is better or worse, healthy or sick, intelligent or unintelligent. All have strengths and weaknesses.

Here is the SECOND DIMENSION, known as the **Sensing - Intuition** scale. This dimension answers the question, "Do you tend to focus on the facts or the possibilities?"

Sensing (S):

- * Focus on the facts and specifics.
- * Are more concrete; like ideas to be practical.
- * Trust their direct experience.
- * Like to operate in the here and now.
- * Are realistic and practical.
- * Like established ways of doing things.
- * Think and talk step-by-step.
- * Represent about 65% of US pop.

Intuition (N):

- * Focus on the possibilities.
- * Are more abstract; like ideas and theories for their own sake.
- * Trust their gut instincts.
- * Like to imagine and think about the future.
- * Are innovative and imaginative.
- * Like to create new ways of doing things.
- * Frequently jump around, topic to topic.
- * Represent about 35% of US pop.

Here is the THIRD DIMENSION, known as the **Thinking - Feeling** scale. This dimension answers the question, "Do you base most decisions on logic or on your personal values?"

Thinking (T):

- * Are more logical and analytical.
- * Believe it's better to be truthful than tactful.
- * Are fair and consistent; apply one standard to all.
- * Are motivated by achievements.
- * Like to compete and win.
- * Easily see flaws; can be critical and brusque.
- * Are thick-skinned and not easily offended.
- * Comprise about 65% of males.

Feeling (F):

- * Are more sensitive and sympathetic.
- * Believe it's better to be tactful than truthful.
- * Like harmony; look for extenuating circumstances.
- * Are motivated by being appreciated.
- * Like to cooperate and create consensus.

- * Like to please others; express appreciation easily.
- * Get their feelings hurt more easily.
- * Comprise about 65% of females.

Here is the FOURTH DIMENSION, known as the **Judging - Perceiving** scale. This dimension answers the question, "Do you prefer to be more spontaneous or follow a plan?"

Judging (J):

- * Like to make decisions, decide quickly.
- * Prefer to make and keep plans.
- * Are usually well organized.
- * Like to be in control.
- * Have a strong work ethic: work, then play.
- * Are more formal, conventional.
- * Tend to see things as black and white.
- * Are often better at finishing projects.

Perceiving (P):

- * Like to keep options open; may procrastinate.
- * Prefer to be free to act spontaneously.
- * Are often disorganized.
- * Like to adapt to changing situations.
- * Have a strong play ethic: play, then work.
- * Are more casual and unconventional.
- * Tend to see things as shades of gray.
- * Are often better at starting projects.

Now to the fun part...compare your profile to that of your friends and partners.

One final reminder, from above: All types are equally valuable. None is better or worse, healthy or sick, intelligent or unintelligent. All have strengths and weaknesses.

Find your Myers-Briggs Type Indicator at: <http://www.TheMarriageLibrary.com/Resources/Myers-BriggsPacket.pdf>

Extraversion	Introversion
Sensing	Intuition
Thinking	Feeling
Judging	Perceiving