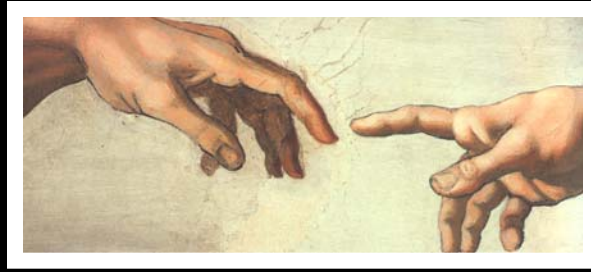


Defining Your Writing Purpose





What Is Purpose?

▶ **A reason for being and doing.**

▶ **Answers the questions:**

“Why am I here?”

“What am I to do?”

▶ **Initiated by God.**

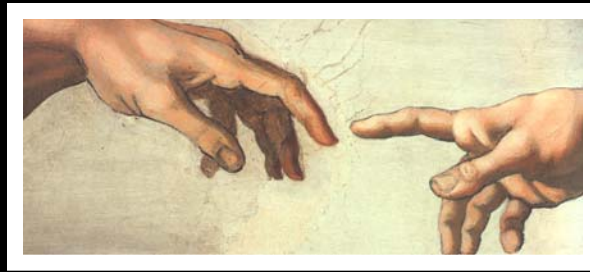
▶ **Individual in nature.**



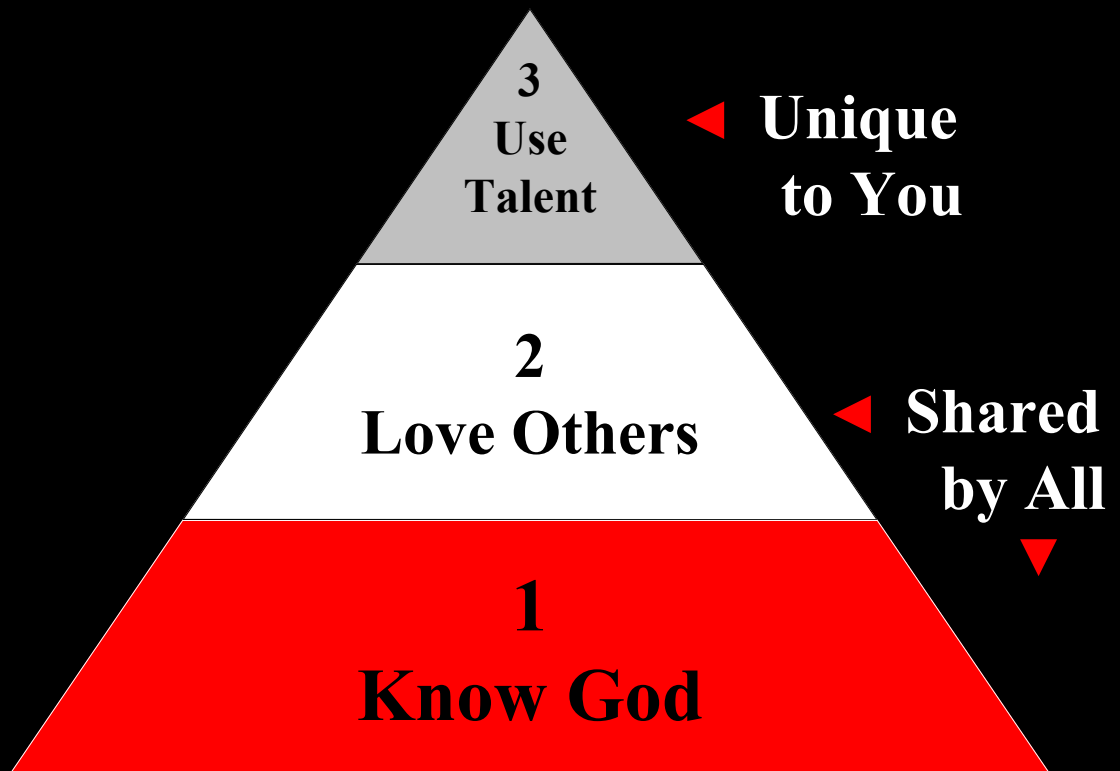
Purposes in Life

- ▶ **To know God intimately.**
- ▶ **To share God's love with others.**
- ▶ **To use your unique talent to accomplish God's work in the world.**

*Adapted from Richard Bolles,
How to Find Your Mission in Life*



Building a Foundation





Personal Inventory

1. What are my dreams?

Reality + impossible.

2. What are my talents?

Natural talents + spiritual gifts.

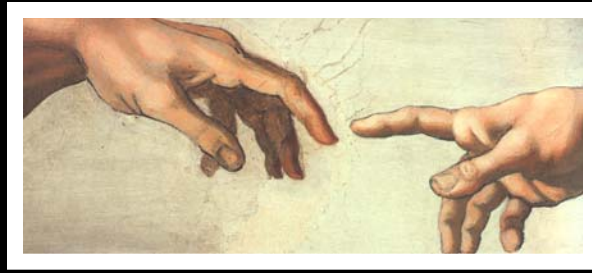
3. What is my calling?

Background + passion.



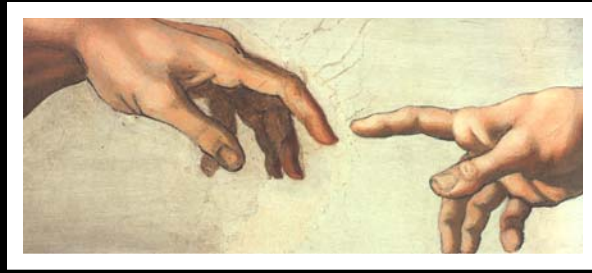
Life Purpose Statement

- ▶ **Authentic**
Who are you, really?
- ▶ **General**
What is the core task?
- ▶ **Targeted**
Who is your audience?
- ▶ **Hopeful**
What will be the outcome?
- ▶ **Enduring**
Could it last a lifetime?



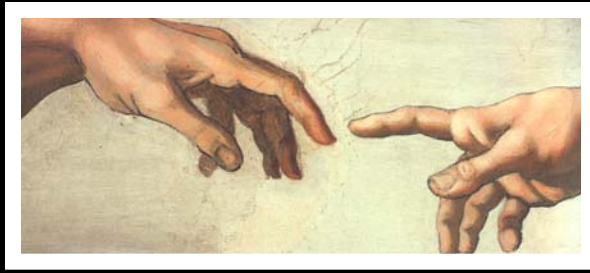
Sample Purpose Statements

- ▶ **To publish the glad tidings to women so they can become all God created them to be.**
- ▶ **To compose music that nurtures the soul.**
- ▶ **To help people eat in a healthy manner, freeing them to serve as God's servant.**



Writing Purpose

- ▶ **Type of writer.**
Nature vs. need.
- ▶ **Writing's place in overall life purpose.**
Same vs. subset.
- ▶ **Time commitment.**
Primary vs. partial.



Role of Writing

Life Purpose

=

Writing



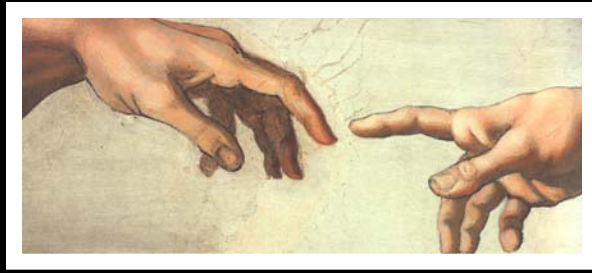
Role of Writing

**Life
Purpose**



Writing

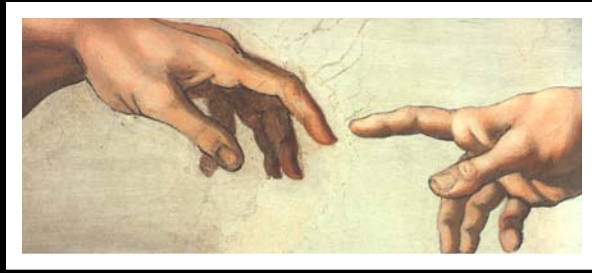
Teaching



The Joy of Purpose

- ▶ The place God calls you to is the place where your *deep gladness* and the world's *deep hunger* meet.

—*Frederick Buechner*



Your Life

- 1. What is your life purpose statement?**
- 2. How does writing fit into that purpose?**
- 3. What time commitment will writing require?**