



## The First Principle and Foundation

*Our purpose: We are created to praise, reverence, and serve (with) God our Lord, to receive and abide in God's love. We are invited to respond in love, giving ourselves completely to God, which opens us to the fullness of life we were created for.*

All we have and the details of our lives are gifts from God, given to help us pursue the purpose for which we are created.

It follows from this that we embrace these things, in so far as they help us towards our purpose, and free ourselves from them, in so far as they are obstacles to our purpose.

We are invited to learn holy indifference to the particular circumstances of our life, so that we can seek God and God's kingdom above all else

Because God gives us his love and grace, we will seek God first, and embrace the life that God gives us. We let go of striving for a life of wealth versus poverty, fame versus disgrace, power versus vulnerability, health versus illness, a long life versus a short one, and so on, entrusting ourselves entirely into God's loving care. Our deepest desire and most authentic choice is what best helps us move towards the purpose for which we are created.

-Ignatius of Loyola, adapted by Dale Gish

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