

# Why do people search for a higher purpose?

All in all, it's a combination of biology, survival instincts, and psychology.

## Why do people fight to stay alive?

An instinct that was born long ago, to survive long enough to reproduce. The desire to live is an instinctive desire, built into the psyche of the organism, in this case humans. Humans will seek the things they need to survive. They will do things they wouldn't normally do.

Example: The Donner Party. It was a group of settlers making their way to California when they got stuck in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They resorted to cannibalism to survive by eating their dead. Other things humans may do to survive are listening to killers' demands or withstanding torture. Sometimes, as we are social creatures, the desire of survival may expand to people close to us. Another reason why humans fight to stay alive is the deadly things are unpleasant for us. Being hungry, thirsty, or tired feels bad, so we do our best to get rid of it by eating, drinking, and sleeping. We do our best to reduce, if not get rid of, these feelings.

## What gives people motivation?

There are no known answers, but there are theories. One on which is called the Instinct theory. This theory is that motivation is driven by instinct. As an example, working hard in high school to get into a good college, and therefore, a good job, can be considered survival instinct. More recently, survival instinct has also included economic survival. This is theorized to be because we need food to eat, and we need money to get food, therefore, we should have money. Another theory is called Drive Reduction Theory. This theory is that motivation is directly based on the environment around us. It states that if we're hungry, we will have motivation to get food. If we're thirsty, we'll have motivation to get water. If we're bored, we'll search for something to entertain us. The third and last theory is called Arousal Theory. It's the theory that we will search for things to fulfill our arousal. Some people who need more arousal would do physical things such as rock climbing, running, or a sport. People who need less would seek calmer activities, like reading, playing video games, or sleeping.

## What is motivation?

The desire to do things.

## Why do people invent religion to to to give themselves purpose?

They don't invent it for a higher purpose, it was invented to make people act better.

## What religions are there?

The biggest religions in the world are listed in order here, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Bahá'ism, Confucianism, Jainism, and Shintoism. (not including atheism stuff like that. Only general religions)

## How do religions affect how people act?

Having a religion doesn't necessarily affect behavior, but, if they have a god, his temperament affects it directly. If the god they believe in is more vengeful and less loving, cheating rates are much lower. However, if their god is more loving, caring, and forgiving, the students showed higher cheating rates. This was a test on college students. The divine stick

holds more power than the divine carrot. It only got more interesting as the experiment went to crime rates. More people that do crimes have more benevolent gods, rather than punitive ones.

### **Does the religion's afterlife affect this?**

Yes. Hell is a deterrent for people because they fear a consequence in the afterlife. It's a divine deterrent. For people who believe in heaven more, crime is more likely. For people who don't believe in hell at all, there is no divine deterrent, and maybe even a divine license. So if hell keeps people in line, what does the promise of heaven do? Statistics and surveys show that it makes people feel good, even if it's just on a subconscious level. So hell makes people act good, and heaven makes people feel good. Who knew?

### **Why are people social?**

This, again, goes back to instincts. Back when there were real threats to us, we developed an instinct to stick with other people. This is because there's safety in numbers. This instinct is still around today, so humans crave social activity. To go into detail why we're attached these days, it's because we're frail. Humans are born more frail than other animals. Because of this, we make attachments. We start with our parents, as they care for and protect us. We branch out to family, because they protect us, though less. We then branch out to others and make friends because we're used to social interaction. Most parents raise their kids correctly, and they grow up knowing who they are and how to interact. Some parents, however, are abusive or neglectful. These children grow up not knowing who they are and thinking that any problems they have shouldn't be burdening on others, so they become unhealthy, autonomous people. Another way they can act is overly clingy and possessive, trying to use others to find their identity. There are many shades of grey in between, of course. Another reason why is that people learn from other people. When humans see others do something that the first person hasn't yet seen, the premotor cortex, the supplementary motor area, the primary somatosensory cortex, and the inferior parietal cortex all light up, and the person learns. This phenomenon is produced by something called Mirror Neurons.

### **What is the definition of social?**

The definition of social is 'of or relating to society or its organization.'

### **Why do people get married?**

According to times magazine, people get married to show their friends and family how well they're doing, even if they're unsure if the relationship will last a lifetime.

### **Why are people the way they are?**

All in all, people are the way they are because of instinct, neurons, and incentive.

### **Why do people entertain?**

People entertain partially because it's in our nature to want to be entertained. Most, if not all human cultures enjoy or enjoyed storytelling. In the prehistoric age, humans sat around fires and told stories, trying to dispel boredom. The reason why entertainment is so entertaining is because of mirror neurons. These allow us to learn from others, but they also allow us to immerse ourselves in a story. We can hear the story and use mirror neurons to understand what the character is going through, and therefore, immerse ourselves. People perform for different

reasons. Some people perform for the gratification of having people clap for them, even if they're complete strangers. Some people do it for money, some for the attraction of the opposite gender, and some to try to gain the 'approval' of a person by imagining the audience as the person they want approval from. This can even happen if the person can't give approval or disapproval because they're not there or are dead. This is the reason for entertaining. Now onto the topic of why people search for entertainment / stories. The tradition of storytelling began sometime and somewhere, but there's no way to know this, as it's been around for such a long time, and alas, there is no story about when it started. One of the reasons people tell stories is oral tradition. Oral tradition is the teaching of something from one generation to another through oral communication. Things that can be passed down this way are traditions, religious information, legends, and myths. Another reason for seeking entertainment is escapism. Escapism is the act of seeking distraction and relief from unpleasant reality, especially by entertainment. Essentially, it's using entertainment to block out an unpleasant reality. This is commonly used throughout bad times, and more recently, all times. As an example, nowadays, people block out their financial problems and social problems with Netflix and video games. It's been used in the past during the great depression. Magazines, radio, and movies were designed to help people escape mentally from all their problems. A specific example of someone who used escapism is King Ludwig II of Bavaria. He commonly escaped into the world of Wagnerian mythology. There are many instances of escapism in history and modern days. These are two reasons why people seek entertainment.

### **Why do people work?**

This goes back to survival instinct. People know they need money to eat, and they need to eat to live, so they need money. People get jobs to get money to eat, and therefore, live.

### **Why do people work out?**

This also goes back to survival instinct. People work out for different reasons, but the biggest one is to get or look strong. This helped us when we needed it because predators can be intimidated by size. We look bigger when we work out, so we most likely kept this instinct, as it can still help us. Another reason why is that working out also reduces risk of disease and heart attack.

### **Why are there laws?**

To keep order and safety alive.

### **Why are things considered unethical?**

The definition of unethical is lacking moral principles. Things are unethical when they go against our instincts or weaken ourselves. To quote the Bible, King James Version, Matthew chapter 12 verse 25. "*And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.*" The part to focus on is 'Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation'. This means if we turn on each other, we will fall as a society. That's why these things are unethical. I have specific examples here. Murder is unethical for two reasons. One, It takes away from someone what they hold most dear, their life. Another reason goes back, once again, to survival instinct. We survived better in groups when needed, so injuring or killing another member of our group would have lowered our chances of survival, which is why, most of the

time, instinctually, humans will feel repulsed by the thought of injuring or killing others. Theft is another example. Theft is the taking of something that belongs to someone or something else. Most of the time, theft leads to lying about something, most likely whether or not you stole it. Most people will lie and say no. Lying is unethical because it weakens our community, even if slightly. Truth gives everyone correct information about things that may affect them. If we're honest and open, we can make informed decisions about the world. Theft, due to the necessary concealment to pull it off, breaks that honesty, therefore being unethical. Another reason why theft is unethical is because people's personal belongings can give them a sense of self. If these belongings were taken, they may lose their sense of self and become less productive in society. Technically, though, stealing is only unethical when it's from your own society, whatever you may consider that to be. There are many times in history when countries were ransacked purely for their gold.

### **Why are things illegal?**

Things are mostly dubbed illegal because they cause chaos, are unethical, or can cause injury to come to others.

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Mr. Martin:

Why do myths and mythology exist.

Humanity trying to explain the natural world

What makes a good story. Why do we pass them on.

Humanity likes stories to relay information and lessons.

Mrs. Lang:

Where are the the premotor cortex, the supplementary motor area, the primary somatosensory cortex, and the inferior parietal cortex?

Both Motor areas are on the top center of the brain, the somatosensory is right behind those, and the inferior parietal cortex is on the left side of the brain, lower down.