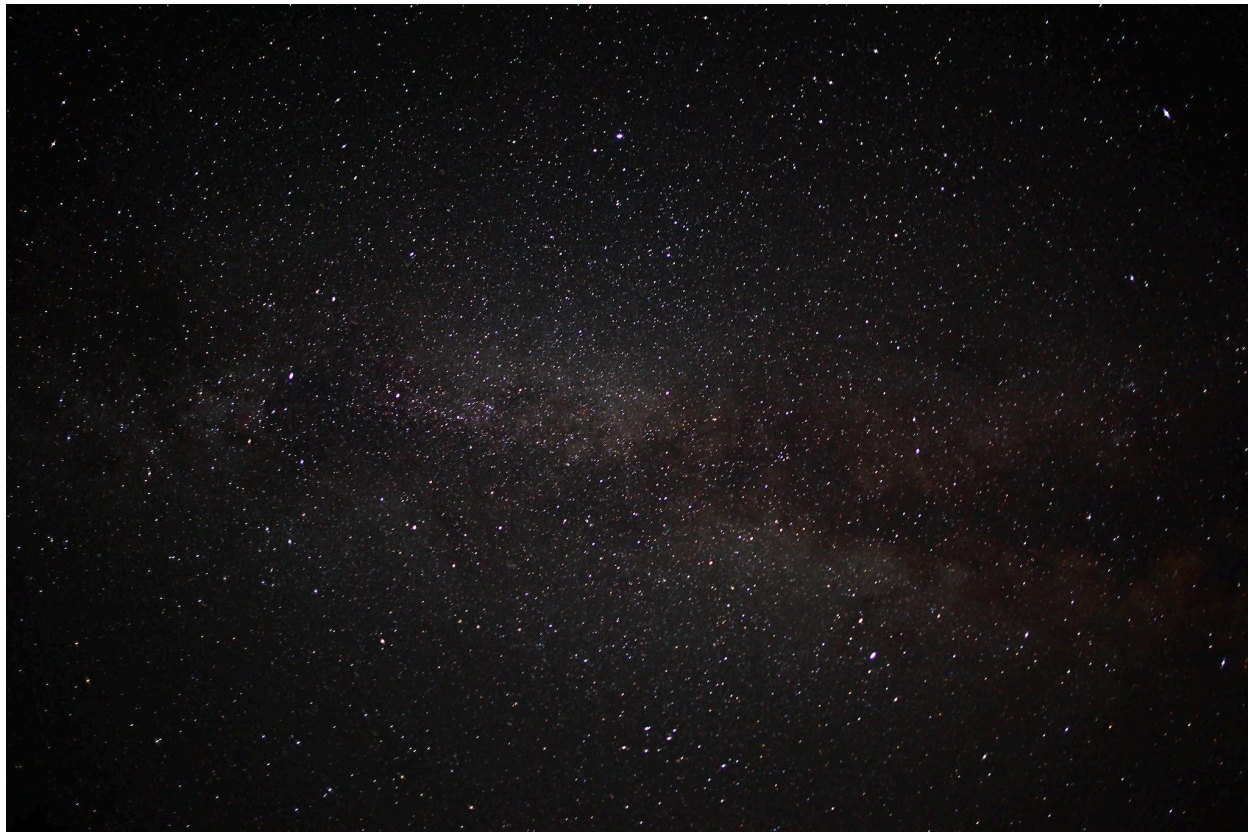# Divine Design Handbook

Unleash Your Creativity and Design Mastery

Welcome to the Divine Design Handbook, where the profound intersection of creativity and purpose unfolds. Within these pages, we embark on a journey to unlock the depths of our being, guided by the timeless wisdom of our divine origin. As beings made in the image of God, we bear the sacred imprint of divine creativity, imbued with the power to shape our existence and the world around us. Through introspection, exploration, and intentional design, we awaken to the truth of our identity, understand our purpose, and embrace the transformative potential within us. Join us as we delve into the sacred art of self-discovery and creation, illuminating the path to living authentically, purposefully, and abundantly.

- Image of God: The inherent essence and likeness of divinity infused within every individual, reflecting qualities such as creativity, love, and transcendence.
- Sense of Self: The deep understanding and awareness of one's unique identity, purpose, values, and capabilities, rooted in the recognition of being made in the image of God.
- Missional Identity: The distinctive calling and purpose that arise from the recognition of being made in the image of God, guiding individuals to actively engage in the ongoing work of co-creating a world characterized by love, justice, and flourishing.

Being made in the image of God profoundly shapes our understanding of self and the purpose of our existence. This foundational belief imbues us with inherent worth and dignity, rooted in the divine essence within us. Recognizing ourselves as reflections of the divine sparks a deep sense of interconnectedness with all of creation, fostering empathy, compassion, and a commitment to justice and reconciliation. Moreover, understanding our identity as bearers of the divine image invites us into a journey of self-discovery and growth, as we strive to align our thoughts, actions, and relationships with the values and character of God. This transformative realization infuses our lives with purpose and meaning, compelling us to pursue lives marked by love, service, and the pursuit of flourishing for ourselves and others. Ultimately, embracing our identity as image-bearers of God empowers us to live authentically and purposefully, contributing to the ongoing work of co-creating a world characterized by grace, compassion, and wholeness.

Identity:

- "You are defined by your achievements and successes."
- "Your identity is shaped by your cultural background and heritage."
- "You are who you choose to surround yourself with."
- "Your identity is determined by your job or profession."
- "You are what others say about you."
- "Your identity is shaped by your experiences and traumas."
- "You are inherently valuable as a human being, regardless of external factors."

Authority:

- "You should listen to authority figures such as parents, teachers, and religious leaders."
- "Trustworthy sources include reputable news outlets and experts in their fields."
- "Listen to your own intuition and inner guidance."
- "Authority lies in tradition and established norms."
- "The Bible is the ultimate authority for moral and spiritual guidance."

Community:

- "Your family is your primary source of support and connection."
- "Your community includes friends, coworkers, and neighbors who share common interests."
- "Your online community and social media connections are important for support and validation."
- "You are connected to a larger global community through shared humanity and interconnectedness."
- "Your church or religious community provides spiritual guidance and support."

Purpose:

- "Your purpose is to find happiness and fulfillment in whatever you do."
- "Your purpose is to serve others and make the world a better place."
- "Your purpose is to pursue success and achieve your goals."
- "Your purpose is to fulfill religious or spiritual duties and obligations."
- "Your purpose is to discover and live out your unique passions and talents."

Contribution:

- "You contribute to society through your career and work achievements."
- "Your contribution lies in acts of kindness and service to others."
- "You contribute by sharing your knowledge and skills with those around you."
- "Your contribution is measured by the impact you have on the lives of others."
- "You have something valuable to offer simply by being yourself and sharing your authentic self with the world."

Contrasting the various perspectives on identity, the course resources emphasize a holistic understanding that transcends external factors and societal norms. Rather than defining identity solely based on achievements, cultural background, or others' perceptions, the resources highlight the inherent value and dignity of each individual as created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This perspective underscores the intrinsic worth of every person, irrespective of worldly measures of success or societal labels. Additionally, the resources emphasize the importance of embracing one's true identity in Christ, which involves acknowledging and living out one's identity as a beloved child of God (1 John 3:1). This deep sense of identity rooted in divine love fosters a profound sense of belonging and purpose, shaping every aspect of one's life.

Authority:

In contrast to the idea of authority being solely vested in individuals or institutions, the course resources posit God as the ultimate authority and trustworthy source of guidance. While respecting the wisdom of others, the resources underscore the importance of discerning truth through the lens of Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is presented as the authoritative source for moral and spiritual truths (2 Timothy 3:16-17), offering timeless principles for navigating life's complexities. This perspective challenges the notion of relativism and underscores the importance of aligning one's beliefs and actions with God's truth, even when it contradicts societal norms or personal preferences.

Community:

Diverging from a purely secular understanding of community based on social connections or online networks, the course resources emphasize the significance of belonging to the body of

Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). This community extends beyond mere social bonds to encompass a spiritual family united by a common faith in Christ. While acknowledging the value of earthly relationships, the resources prioritize the importance of fellowship with other believers for spiritual growth, mutual support, and accountability (Hebrews 10:24-25). This perspective challenges the notion of individualism prevalent in contemporary culture, emphasizing the interconnectedness and interdependence of believers within the community of faith.

Purpose:

In contrast to secular views that often focus on personal fulfillment or success, the course resources offer a transcendent perspective on purpose rooted in God's sovereign plan for creation. While individuals may pursue various endeavors, the ultimate purpose is to glorify God and enjoy a loving relationship with Him (1 Corinthians 10:31, Revelation 4:11). This perspective transcends fleeting achievements or worldly ambitions, offering a profound sense of meaning and fulfillment grounded in eternal truths. Additionally, the resources emphasize the importance of seeking God's will and aligning one's life with His purposes, which may involve sacrificial service, obedience, and stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us (Ephesians 2:10).

Contribution:

Unlike secular notions of contribution based on personal achievements or societal impact, the course resources emphasize the importance of stewardship and service rooted in love (Galatians 5:13). While individuals may possess unique talents and abilities, the resources emphasize the call to use these gifts to glorify God and serve others rather than for self-aggrandizement (1 Peter 4:10-11). This perspective challenges the cultural emphasis on individual success and competition, inviting believers to adopt a posture of humility and generosity in their interactions with others. Additionally, the resources highlight the importance of recognizing and affirming the contributions of every member within the body of Christ, valuing diversity and unity in service (Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27).