

Theme: Each of us has received many callings - areas of responsibility where God works through us to serve others in every realm of life and every corner of creation.

I. Intro – When Did You Receive ‘The Call’

- A. Common question I have been asked
- B. Several misconceptions
 - 1. THE call is to Jesus Christ - not to be a pastor
 - 2. Not only pastors & missionaries are called
 - 3. We all really have many callings
- C. The tension of multiple callings
 - 1. We struggle to balance our lives & callings
 - 2. Guilt leads us to try to give Jesus a bigger slice
 - 3. But He has the whole pie - not the biggest slice!
- D. How do we discern and live out our multiple callings?

II. Different Callings For Different People

- A. Notice that the calling is different for each group
 - 1. Different calls for different family members (vv18-21)
 - 2. Different calls for slaves and masters (3:22; 4:1)
- B. We are not all given the same calling
 - 1. The call for a child is different than that of a parent
 - 2. Different for bosses & employees, rulers & citizens
 - 3. God holds each accountable for different things

III. Different Callings For Each Person

- A. One person might have several of these callings at once
 - 1. Husband, child, parent, slave or master (3:18-4:1)
 - 2. One person could be virtually all of these at once
 - 3. And we can add citizen & leader in as well!
- B. This means we have many concurrent callings
 - 1. We tend to focus on one at expense of others
 - 2. Others may try to have one call dominate
 - 3. We must fulfill all God calls us to

IV. Different Callings At Different Times of Life

- A. Each person will have different callings at different times
 - 1. A child grows up, may get married, have kids
 - 2. A slave could become a master
 - 3. A citizen may become the leader or vice versa
 - 4. A student may have a job that is not their “career”
 - 5. We may change jobs many times throughout life
- B. This means our callings change over time
 - 1. This is certainly true as we fulfill different roles
 - 2. Will also happen in the same role
 - a. Parenting infant vs. teen vs. grown child
 - b. How husband serves his wife changes with circumstances

3. But at each moment each calling is from God
4. At each moment we serve God in each calling
5. We can't just wait for the future and our "real" calling

V. Fulfilling Our Many Callings

- A. We must distinguish our callings from one another
 1. My calling as a husband is different than as an elder
 2. Each calling has its own responsibility and authority
 3. Slave might be an elder in church where master is a member
 4. Mayor has no authority in BRCC; I have no authority in Annapolis
- B. We must balance our callings with one another
 1. One or two calling usually tend to dominate
 2. Our desires, pressure from others lead to imbalance
 3. God is active in each and every calling
 4. We must learn to say NO when one tries to dominate
 5. The call comes from God - others can not overrule!
 6. Draw strength and wisdom from God for our callings
 7. Draw wisdom from other believers on how to do this
- C. We must accept the responsibilities & limitations of calling
 1. I am responsible to let God serve other through each calling
 2. But realize God is Sovereign - you are not!
 3. Do not carry burdens that are not yours!

VI. Applying the Word

- A. Is God serving others through my many callings?
 1. Each of us has many callings at any given time!
 2. Am I serving God in my callings now?
 3. Am I serving in all of my callings - or favoring one?
 4. Is my life in balance - or out of control?
- B. Am I drawing wisdom and strength from God?
 1. Remember - the primary call is to Jesus!
 2. If this gets out of focus, everything else will too!
 3. Am I regular in worship with God's people?
 4. Am I in the Word and prayer?
 5. Am I in regular fellowship for wisdom & support?
- C. Called to the Table to receive grace, strength, & wisdom

Called To Many Callings

Colossians 3:18-4:1

October 7, 2012

Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. 1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.
Colossians 3:18–4:1

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. 1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.
Colossians 3:18–4:1