

# FAITHFULLY FULFILLING OUR CALLINGS

## Faithfully Fulfilling Our Callings

### Key idea:

Christians should strive by God's grace to be faithful in their callings - the specific tasks and responsibilities given to us by God, through which God works to serve our neighbors and promote the common good, restraining the effects of the curse and bringing blessing to every realm of life and every corner of creation.

### Key text:

Colossians 3:23–24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, <sup>24</sup>since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

1 Peter 4:10–11

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### Key points:

1. Paul speaks of serving others in our work and responsibilities and Peter speaks of serving others through spiritual gifts, but both are speaking of faithfully fulfilling the callings God has given to us.
2. These passages teach several key points about calling:
  - a. Each of us has received different callings and gifts from God
  - b. These callings and gifts are given by God so that He can serve others through us
  - c. Callings and gifts are not restricted to church life but touch every area of life where we can be used by God to serve others
  - d. We each have multiple callings
  - e. We will ultimately be rewarded by God for how faithfully we use our gifts to fulfill the various callings we have been given by God.

3. Calling refers to the specific tasks and responsibilities given to us by God, through which God works to serve our neighbors and promote the common good, restraining the effects of the curse and bringing blessing to every realm of life and every corner of creation.

**Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Have I ever thought of my responsibilities as being a calling from God, or do I tend to think of being called' as referring to those who engage in Christian ministry as their full-time job?
3. Why is it important for me to understand that calling and spiritual gifts take into account everything about us - our 'natural' personality, our gifts and abilities, our life experiences, the particular way the Spirit works best in our lives, and our life circumstances?
4. On Sunday Bret said, "Faithfulness in our callings does not fret over circumstances beyond our control or on what gifts and opportunities we do not have, but rather focuses on the gifts and opportunities we do have and uses those to serve God and others." Can I think of areas where I become discouraged over circumstances that prevent me from serving as I would like rather than seeing circumstances that open doors for me to serve?
5. We often think of serving God by serving others (which is a biblical concept), but the definition of calling given above speaks of God serving our neighbors through us. How does this help me to see my callings in a different light?
6. How often do I think about my gifts and callings being to promote the common good? How can my calling as a husband, wife, or parent promote the common good? How does my paid job promote the common good? How do various ways I volunteer or even hobbies I do promote the common good?
7. Have I ever heard of 'common grace' before? Bret defined it as "the aspect of God's grace that restrains sin and its effects, gives general blessings to humanity and creation so that they can partially fulfill God's original design for them, but is not part of salvation itself." How can understanding this help me think about my callings outside of the church?
8. Can I list the various callings God has given me? Which one(s) do I want to see God help me to grow in faithfulness over the coming year?

9. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?

**For Further Study:**

[Called](#) - A whole teaching series on the doctrine of “calling” in Scripture.

[Christ, the Church, Christians, and Culture](#) - A whole teaching series on understanding culture, its relationship to Christ, to the Church, and the responsibility of believers within the culture.

[Peace for the City](#) - a teaching on how Christians are called to seek shalom (peace) for the city where they have been called by God.

Teachings on Common Grace

[Common Grace - Restraining the Effects of the Fall](#)

[Creation, Culture and the Curse](#)

[A Tale of Two Kingdoms \(Part 1\)](#)

[A Tale of Two Kingdoms \(Part 2\)](#)