

Called From – Called To

1. Intro

1. When we use the term, “God has called us”, what does that mean?
 1. When you “call” on the phone, you want to reach that person ear for a moment.
 2. Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is directed and lived out in response to His call.
 3. In the NT it is almost synonymous for salvation. In this context, calling is overwhelmingly God’s calling people to himself as followers of Christ.
 4. The body of Jesus’ followers as a whole is the community of the “called-out ones” (ecclesia, church).
 5. Jesus called His disciples.
 1. What were they called from and what were they called to?
 1. From fishing for fish to fishers of men.
 2. From tax collecting to soul collectors
 2. Jesus from construction to human resources

2. Called From – Called To

1. Called from death to life (Eph 2:4-6)
 1. “Death” and “life” are two vastly different spheres of existence.
 2. The contrast shows the great change that has taken place in the believer’s life.
 3. By God's mercy and love through Jesus.
 1. Life was given when Jesus was raised from the dead.
 2. As a result we are united with Him. He has life, we have life.
2. Called from bondage to liberty (Gal 5:13)
 1. We were in bondage to sin outside of Christ.
 1. that is sinful nature that everyone possesses.
 2. We are no longer under the legal requirements of the Law.
 1. The Law has values, one of which is to reveal how to express love for God and other people.
 2. Under grace we are free to fulfill the Law by loving one another.
 3. For the Christian the Mosaic Law has revelatory value (2 Tim. 3:16-17) even though it does not have regulatory value, controlling our behavior.
3. Called out of darkness into light (Col 1:13; 1 Pet. 2:9)
 1. The church is what it is so that it can do what God has called it to do.
 2. It is to be the instrument through which the light of God reaches individuals who still sit in spiritual darkness.
 3. The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) clarifies the methods God wants us to use.

3. By obeying the call:

1. We are made children of God (I John 3:1-2)
 1. The Bible speaks of the children of God primarily as those who are His spiritual children by faith in Jesus Christ.
 2. The new birth brings us into a new family with new relationships.
 3. “Children” draws attention to community.

1. As children in this community we have the opportunity of development.
2. We are made God's saints (Col. 1:2)
 1. The Colossian believers were "saints" (holy, set apart to God) in their position and "faithful brethren" in their practice.
3. We are made partners (workers) together with God (2 Cor. 6:1)
 1. Evangelism is a joint effort of the Lord and His human ambassador.
 2. We need to respond to the grace given us so God's grace given to us would not have been in vain.
4. We are called to a high calling (Phil. 3:14)
 1. Paul's goal was complete knowledge of Christ.
 2. He would receive a prize when he reached that goal.
 3. He would only reach that goal when he entered the Lord's presence and saw Him face to face.
 4. He pursued the goal while living on the earth because he wanted to get to know the Lord as well as possible before going into the Lord's presence.
5. We are called to a heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1)
 1. Our calling as Christians is not just earthly but heavenly.
 1. We should give careful attention to Jesus because of our holy calling as participants in His future reign and joy.
 2. Jesus Christ is the "Messenger" (Apostle) in that He is the One God sent to reveal the Father to us.
 3. He is the "High Priest" in that He is the One God anointed to represent human beings to Himself.

4. Conclusion

1. We have been called "from" certain things "to" certain things.
2. By obeying the call, we are made into a particular people.
3. Our call can be summed up as discipleship.
 1. This implies where ever I am, in whatever I am doing the response is the Lordship of Christ.
4. Paul wrote to the followers of Christ in the little town of Colosse, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (Col 3:23)