

## Effectual Calling

Romans 8:30; 1 Corinthians 1:22-24

Intro:

### I. What Makes Men Differ?

### II. What Is Effectual Calling?

#### A. Definition

**Westminster Shorter Catechism 31.** "What is effectual calling?"

Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit,<sup>(1)</sup> whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery,<sup>(2)</sup> enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ,<sup>(3)</sup> and renewing our wills,<sup>(4)</sup> he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel

#### B. Necessity

**1 Corinthians 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (He doesn't have the **ability** to understand *spiritual* things.)

**Romans 8:7** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it **cannot**.

WCF 10: "In this calling, God enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly, so that they understand the things of God...He renews their wills, and by his almighty power turns them to what is good and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ. Yet he does this in such a way that they come *most freely* – being made willing by His grace!

### C. The Evidence

1 Thessalonians 1:4–5 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

### III. Called – To What?

1. To holiness.

2. To heaven.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called ....

1 Thessalonians 2:12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

3. To Christ.

Romans 1:6. "You who are called to belong to Jesus."

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### IV. Why Does this Matter?