

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church February 9, 2020

Sequence of Salvation (Review)

Unconditional Election ← Election

Total Depravity ← The Fall

Irresistible
Grace

Effective Call

Regeneration

Limited
Atonement

Faith

Repentance

Conversion

Preservation
of the
saints

Justification

Adoption

Elapsed
Time is
Zero

Calling

- There are at least four different ways that the word family of call/calls/called/calling is used in the Bible/Christian doctrine.
 1. In naming a person: You shall **call** (*kaleō*) His name Jesus Matthew 1:21
 2. In regard to vocation: Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, **called** (*klētos*) to be an apostle, (Romans 1:1)
 3. The Gospel call: For “everyone who **calls** (*epikaleō*) on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How then will they **call** (*epikaleō*) on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (Romans 10:13 – 14)
 4. The effectual call: And those whom he predestined he also **called** (*kaleō*) , (Romans 8:30)

Calling

- The Greek words translated as call/calls/called/calling are primarily in the Greek word family of *kaleō* and its derivatives of *klētos*, *proskaleō* and *epikaleō*.

Calling – Regarding Vocation

- One of the results of the Reformation was the realization that everyone has a vocational calling and not just those in Christian ministry.
- The English word “*vocation*” is derived from the Latin word for “*calling*.”
- In the call to Christian ministry it is usually thought there must be an “*internal*” and an “*external*” call. The same is actually true for all vocations.

Calling – Internal Call

- For vocations that are not in Christian ministry the internal call will usually take the form of:
 - an honest appraisal (self and others) of a person's gifts, talents and interests that are suitable for the desired vocation.
 - at least some degree of desire or passion for the vocation.

Calling – Internal Call

- For the ministry, the internal call does not come as clearly as it did for the Apostles in which the person of Jesus said, “Follow me.” The internal call would be characterized by:
 - A true Christian committed to spiritual growth/sanctification
 - Eager to study Scripture and share the Gospel
 - Meets all the requirements for an Elder (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1)
 - **Not overly confident** Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, (2 Corinthians 3:4 – 6)

Calling – External Call

- In general, external affirmation of an internal call is required. In vocations other than the ministry, this external affirmation will have the following attributes:
 - Insights from other people that the person has the vocational aptitude.
 - Successful completion of the required training for the vocation.
 - Certification by passing a government or organizational test (if required).
 - Obtaining employment in the vocation

Calling – External Call

- For ministry the external call will be usually be confirmed by
 - Insights from other people that the person has ministerial aptitude.
 - Successful completion of the required training for the ministry.
 - Ordination or some other review by a missions organization, church board or the like.
 - Obtaining a call from a local church or other ministry

Calling – How do I know God's will for my vocation?

- We all want to be in accordance with God's will. This is good for Jesus prayed "Not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)
- But in God's infinite wisdom, He has chosen to not reveal his particular vocational will for every believer in a definitive, clear way.

Calling – How do I know God's will for my vocation?

- Scripture does not lay out any specific requirements for your vocation other than: (1) You need to work and not be idle and (2) the vocation cannot be in opposition to God's revealed will.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. (2 Thessalonians 3:6 -8)

Calling – How do I know God's will for my vocation?

- The vocation cannot be in opposition to God's revealed will.

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. (Romans 6:13)

²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23 – 24)

Calling – How do I know God's will for my vocation?

- Sometimes our gifts qualify us for a wide range of vocations, any of which could provide the employment we need and could enjoy.
- Sometimes we do not make the wisest choice in vocation, or any number of changes occur in our location, marital status, education, interests, new opportunities or the like that may result in a vocational change.
- Sometimes there are not opportunities to use our gifts to the fullest.

Calling – How do I know God's will for my vocation?

- There is nothing wrong with changing vocations or jobs. The important thing is to always use the gifts God has given us for the good of others and the glory of God.
- As long as we are not in vocation forbidden by God or one that makes us very vulnerable to sin, we need not fear bad things will happen to us.