

## Our Unique Calling: MAY 14, 2023

**Calling** is defined as having a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action, especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence. For the Christian, our calling is guided by God, so that we accomplish his purposes for our lives. Unfortunately, when determining our calling, we may often feel as though we are moving through a labyrinth and, somewhere at the end of it, we will find our calling. However, instead of assuming that calling is an elusive prize, we can have confidence that our calling is made clear to us through the scriptures. Actually, we are called to live into the life that God has given us right here, right now.

Our **Central Calling** is to do what God has asked of us, for the purpose of bearing his fruit. God the Father calls us to himself to live out our lives as he created us in his image, designed to accomplish his purposes. Jesus calls us to salvation and friendship, to do life with him. The Holy Spirit calls us to live a life that is good, right, and a blessing to others. God calls us to tasks, roles, peace-making, fellowship, eternal life, service, child-rearing, and homemaking. He calls us to Sunday morning coffee making, volunteering in kid::life, jobs, roles, even suffering, and so much more! In the words of Os Guinness, "Calling means that everyone, everywhere, and in everything fulfills his or her (*UNIQUE*) Calling in response to God's (*primary*) Calling."

In contrast to our central calling (i.e., what God asks of us all), we each have a **Unique Calling** based on the many factors of our lives, like our personality, upbringing, gifts and talents, past experiences, values, spiritual gifts, relational interactions, and more. All of who we are, all of what we do, and all of what we have is surrendered to God. Our unique calling is expressed in many ways, many roles, and many paths.

### LifeGroup Questions

#### 1. Read John 15: 16-17.

**MSG:** *You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. But remember the root command: Love one another.*

- a. Describe your experience of God calling you to himself.
- b. Describe one recent circumstance in which you bore "fruit that won't spoil."
- c. Discuss how the "root command" of loving one another guided you in that process.

#### 2. Read Ephesians 2:7-10.

**MSG:** *Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do; work we had better be doing.*

- a. Describe your **Unique Calling** (what is it that you CANNOT NOT do).

#### 3. Guiding Life Principle(s): Describe what principles guide you in your unique calling.

#### 4. The Stress Factor: Describe how stress, fear, and/or worry impact your ability to fulfill your unique calling.

#### 5. Consider This in Your Unique Calling:

- a. Describe what you love about your unique calling (instead of "Doing what you LOVE and you will never work another day in your life" how do you ALREADY love what you are doing?)
- b. Describe how you evaluate your unique calling.
- c. Describe how you navigate the challenges of your unique calling.
- d. Describe how you sustain the rhythms of your unique calling.

**In Closing:** Thank God for calling you to himself. Pray for God to continue to reveal your unique calling. Pray that God helps you find sustainable ways to fulfill his purposes.