

Shalom Church Adult's Christian Education Class
Your Vocation
10th April 2016

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

BACK TO THE BIBLE → I CORINTHIANS 7:17-24 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But as God has distributed (*merizo*) to each one, as the Lord has called (*kaleo*) each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone called (*kaleo*) while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called (*kaleo*) while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised. ¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God *is what matters*. ²⁰ Let each one remain in the same calling (*klessis*) in which he was called (*kaleo*). ²¹ Were you called (*kaleo*) while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use *it*. ²² For he who is called (*kaleo*) in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called (*kaleo*) while free is Christ's slave. ²³ You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. ²⁴ Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called (*kaleo*).

Some "key" words

- (i) *merizo* – distributed (NKJV), assigned (NASB/ESV), 分 (Chinese Bible) – **v17**
- (ii) *kaleo* – called (NKJV/NASB/ESV), 召 (Chinese Bible) – **v17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24**
- (iii) *klessis* – calling (NKJV), condition (NASB/ESV), 身分 (Chinese Bible) – **v20**
- (iv) _____ -- state (NKJV), condition (NASB/ESV), 身分 (Chinese Bible) – **v24**

What is the message of this passage?

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CLARIFYING THE TERMS & CONCEPT

❖ Calling = vocation

❖ Four ways the Bible uses the word 'call'

(1) *So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally." (GENESIS 24:57)*

(2) *God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. (GENESIS 1:5)*

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. (GENESIS 3:20)

And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel. (GENESIS 35:10)

(3) *But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (II THESSALONIANS 2:13-14)*

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: (I CORINTHIANS 1:2)

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (I CORINTHIANS 1:9)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose . . . Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (ROMANS 8:28, 30)

Recall: the "church" means the "called out" ones!

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(4) *Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*
(ROMANS 1:1)

I CORINTHIANS 7:17-24

❖ Some “loose” ends . . .

But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. **(I CORINTHIANS 7:15)**

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **(GALATIANS 5:13)**

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: **(I PETER 2:21)**

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. **(I PETER 5:10)**

For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. **(I THESSALONIANS 4:7)**

A THEOLOGICAL FORMULATION

[A] Primary Calling

“Our primary calling as followers of Christ is by Him, to Him, and for Him. First and foremost, we are called to Someone (God), not to something (such as motherhood, politics, or teaching) or to somewhere (such as the inner city or Outer Mongolia)”

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Christ calls us, to come to Him, to be with Him, to follow Him and to live for Him!

This is our *primary calling* both because it happened first and because it supersedes every other calling on our lives.

Implications?

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[B] Secondary Calling

“Our secondary calling, considering who God is as sovereign, is that everyone, everywhere, and in everything should think, speak, live, and act entirely for Him.”

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How does it look like?

TWO FIRST-CUT CONCLUSIONS



SOME QUESTIONS YOU WANT TO ASK: