

What am I supposed to be doing?

Byron Peters - Teaching Elder

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“What am I supposed to be doing?” is a question that gets asked a lot around the Chapel Hill area. Students are asking it as they compare themselves with all the gifted and hyper-active kids around them. Graduate students are asking it as they grind through their dissertation. Parents are asking it as they bump up against their own ineffective parenting. Singles ask it as they wonder if God is calling them to marriage. Children ask it as they must decide between soccer and the school play.

Thank God he is not silent on the question of calling. First, he calls us to covenant faithfulness to him. Given our status as children of God (Romans 8:15-16), living stones (1 Peter 2:5), friends of God (John 15:15), the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33), we need not fear that God is faithful to us. “I will never leave you” (Hebrews 13:5) is his unbreakable promise. So the first--and by far most important—calling in our lives is our call to a relationship with Jesus Christ, our beloved. From this strong position of being so lavishly loved, we respond in gratitude and praise. We love him who first loved us. We fix our eyes on him who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high (Hebrews 12)

Faithfulness to our first calling sets the trajectory for all subsequent callings in our lives. With the question of our first and primary calling answered—to love and trust and obey and serve Jesus—the other callings begin to gain clarity.

In discerning God’s call, all our lives become an offering of prayer. “Lord, you’ve made me to glorify yourself. You know me. You have gifted me and handicapped me where you see fit. Help me be faithful where I am, in the classes I’m taking, in the activities I’m pursuing, in the opportunities you set before me or in the search for what is next. Keep my heart soft to you, keep me teachable to the counsel of others, and keep me faithful to my covenant obligations by your Spirit. Thank you for your church—help me to love your people well and serve you heartily in the midst of this covenant family. Give me a servant’s heart, after the heart of Jesus. Give me a biblically informed mind, so that I think straight about my life. Sweeten my affections for you, that I might love and enjoy you in your immense wisdom and worth and beauty. Give me a will that is firm and strong and courageous in Christ. Guard my heart, that I might walk wisely and not take the path of folly. Thank you for the opportunities you’ve given me in the past...Lord, what are the trajectories you are setting by them for my future? Give me the ability to read your providences clearly. Lord, your will be done. Make me faithful.”

Covenant faithfulness is our calling. What are you supposed to be doing? Trusting and obeying God in what he has called you to. First and foremost, to a walk with Jesus. And then, to do all you do, in all your callings, in faithful obedience and service to him who has called you to himself.