

Theology of Calling

➤ God declares ALL work sacred.

1 Corinthians 7:17

Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to them, and to which God has called them.

"This is game-changing news...Your work, whether you're a teacher, a software engineer, a banker, an attorney, a factory worker, an entrepreneur, a stay-at-home parent, blue collar, white collar...if you're a pediatrician or you work the deli-counter at the supermarket *and* you are reconciled to Christ, your work is a sacred calling." – Erik Cooper

"The spiritual manifests itself in a life that knows no division into sacred and secular."

– Oswald Chambers

➤ The story of your life finds context and fulfillment in GOD'S Great Story.

Genesis 11:4

... "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Luke 9:24

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

The deeper context and true fulfillment of our lives is *received*, not *achieved*.

➤ Your calling is your WHOLE life.

called = klétos (klay-tos') = summoned by God

1 Corinthians 1:26

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called...

Ephesians 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...

Philippians 3:14

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

You're called to Christ. (salvation)

You're called to become like Christ. (discipleship/spiritual formation)

You're called to carry out Christ's work in this world. (ministry)

You're called to love your neighbor. (spouse, children, family, friends...etc.).

You're called to work/produce/accomplish/create. (vocation)

What needs in the world stir your heart most deeply?

-- where do you find yourself saying, "that's not right, that's got to change..."?

What gifts, talents, skills, abilities has God entrusted to you?

-- what do people who know you well say you're good at?

-- what do people who know you well say they see God using you when you do this?

When you're working on _____, you feel most fully alive?

-- you enjoy it, you find yourself energized when you do it

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do

good works = **ergon** (er'-gon) = task, employment, action

"For the Christian, it may be said that every act of his life is or can be as truly sacred as prayer or baptism or the Lord's supper. To say this is not to bring all acts down to one dead-level; it is rather to lift every act up into a living Kingdom and turn the whole life into a sacrament...It is not what man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is why he does it. The motive is everything. Let man sanctify the Lord God in his heart and he can thereafter do no common act."

- A.W. Tozer

A prayer of vocation...

"Lord, thank you that I have awakened this morning with breath of life in my lungs. Each day is a gift and I'm grateful for today. Thank you for work—for a place to imitate you and an occupation to offer my best to you. Deepen my awareness of your presence throughout the day. Teach me what it means to worship as I work—laboring with a heart of integrity and with hands of skill. In Jesus' name, Amen."

God, what's on your heart today?