

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

1 Tim 3:1-7

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Romans 8:29-30

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

Study Guide 14 Nov 2010 – The Doctrine of the Call of God



Summary

There are many levels of calling. The calling of God to salvation is both internal and external. The internal call is a work of God, where the Spirit works to convict and enlighten us to what we have been called to do. The external call is where one hears or sees the gospel being shown – a sermon, a tract or an example.

Another call is the call to sanctification. This is a process of becoming like Christ, which begins when we are saved. This is worked out, as if we make effort to squeeze ourselves into the mold of Christ.

The third call is a call to the purposes of God. All God's people have this call – to do His will (in general) but to do what we each individually have been specifically called to do and the roles we have been called to play.

One such specific call is the call to eldership. The need is not the call. God calls men to eldership and we, as the church, simply recognize that call. The call of an elder is inward first and then it needs to be owned by the one who is called when he shapes his outward life.

Key points

The call of God is both internal and external.

Explanation

>>Is our calling God's action or ours?

>>How do we know what God has called each of us to?

>>What does it take for a call to become a reality?

Application

>>Share with one another what you know or think God has called you to change in yourself and to do for Him.

>>Share an occasion where you changed your behavior to conform to a call of God.

Final thoughts

The internal call of God can go unfulfilled if we are not obedient to it and conform our external life to match it.