

Introduction

- Fred’s Call into Full-time Ministry

- Five Diagnostic Questions
 1. How many of you have ever considered going into full-time Christian work?

 2. What motivated you to consider it?

 3. What hindered you from moving in that direction?

 4. Do full-time Christian workers have a “special place” in God’s heart?

 5. Final Question: Was God more pleased with Jesus at age 28 as a carpenter—or more pleased with Him as a preacher at age 31? Why/Why not?

- Some Important Definitions
 - **Job** – What I do to earn a living

 - **Career** – What I build to create a life

 - **“Vocation”** –What God calls me to do to fulfill His highest purposes in me and through me for His glory and my joy.

- What is “Your Calling”?

A Biblical Perspective of “Calling”

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,” (Eph 4:1 NASB)

1. **God calls us first to a _____.** (Eph 1:18; Col 1:7)

Jesus said, “Come to unto me...” (Matt 11:28 KJV)

2. **God calls us second to a _____.** (Eph 4:13; Rom 8:28-30)

Jesus said, “Be ye perfect...” (Matt 5:48 KJV)

3. **God calls us third to _____.** (Eph 4:1-16)

Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my church...” (Matt 16:18)

Follow me and I will make you... (Matt 4:19)

4. **God calls us fourth into a _____.** (Thes 4:7, Eph 4:17- 6:20)

Jesus said, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Matt 6:33 KJV)

- Called to walk in the **light**. (Eph 4:17-32)
- Called to walk in **love**. (Eph 5:1-14)
- Called to walk in **wisdom**. (Eph 5:15-6:20)
 - With God – (Eph 5:15-21)
 - With our mate – (Eph 5:22-33)
 - With our children – (Eph 6:1-4)
 - In our work – (Eph 6:5-9)
 - In spiritual warfare – (Eph 6:10-20)

Implications of Your “Calling” on Your Work

1. Work is not about finding a _____ to pay the bills.
2. Work is not even about building a _____ for a successful life.
3. Work is a “vocation” (a calling) that places you where you do what God created/designed you to do in order to fulfill His highest purposes in you and through you for His glory and your joy.
4. Work flows out of a relationship with Christ (inward) to external activity we do (outward) that impacts our culture and community (onward) to the glory of God (upward).

Work is not a curse—it is, in fact, where the war is fought... the burning question for most Christians should be: How can my life count for the glory of God in my secular vocation?

John Piper—*Don't Waste Your Life* (pg 135)

... how different things would be if each Christian—each ordinary lay person felt himself called by God to his daily work. Felt herself called to her daily work. As much called as any clergy, religious professional, or missionary. How different would the church be? How different would the world be?

Howard E. Butt, Jr. “Why is Our Work a High Calling?”
(from Quarterly Connections, pg 1)

Discussion/ Application Questions

1. What new insights did you get about work? About a calling?
2. How did you answer the five diagnostic questions when you first heard them? How would you answer them now?
3. What aspects of “God’s calling” apply to all believers, and which are individual and specific in nature?
4. How are you currently responding to God’s call on your life...?
 - to Himself?
 - to His purpose?
 - to His people?
 - to His process?
 - to His place for you?
5. What questions did this message raise in your mind and heart? Share them and listen to what God is saying to others as well.

Additional Resources:

1. *The Call* by Os Guinness (book)
2. *Holy Ambition* by Chip Ingram (book, CD series)
3. *Good to Great in God’s Eyes* by Chip Ingram (book, CD series)