

Introduction

The call of God stands at the very heart of the Christian faith. It is not a marginal doctrine reserved for discussions of ministry or vocation, nor is it merely a subjective experience discerned through inward impressions or external circumstances. The call of God is first and foremost a divine act - rooted in eternity, spoken in grace, and fulfilled in history. It is the voice of the living God summoning sinners to Himself, drawing His people into fellowship, and shaping their lives according to His redemptive purposes.

The Greek word *ekklesia*, translated as “church,” carries the meaning of “the called-out ones.” Rooted in the Old Testament concept of *qahal*—the assembly of God’s people—this identity finds its fullness in the New Testament, where the people of God are defined not merely by gathering, but by divine calling.

Throughout Scripture, God is revealed as the One who calls. He calls light out of darkness, life out of death, a people out of bondage, and worshippers out of rebellion. From Abraham’s summons to leave his homeland, to Israel’s calling as a holy nation, to the church’s calling in Christ, the biblical narrative unfolds as a story of divine initiative rather than human discovery. God does not merely respond to human seeking; He speaks first, and His word creates what it commands.

This book approaches the call of God as a deeply rich and multifaceted biblical reality. The call is not singular in expression, though it is unified in source. Scripture speaks of being called by grace, called into fellowship, called to holiness, called to freedom, called to suffering, called to glory, and called to eternal life. It speaks of an external call through the proclamation of the gospel and an internal call by the regenerating work of the Spirit. It speaks of God’s sovereign and effectual call in salvation, as well as His providential call in vocation and service. These are not competing ideas, but complementary dimensions of the one gracious summons of God.

At the foundation of the call lies God Himself - His sovereignty, His eternal counsel, His will, and His purposes. The call of God does not arise from human worthiness or potential, but from divine election and preordination. It is undeserved, gracious, and effectual. Those whom God calls, He truly draws; those He summons, He sustains. The call is not fragile or temporary, but permanent and irrevocable, grounded in the faithfulness of God rather than the constancy of human obedience.

Yet the call of God is never abstract. It is personal and relational. We are called *unto God* - into fellowship, intimacy, and communion with Him. We are called into one body, formed together as the people of God in Christ. We are called to worship, to magnify and glorify God, and to live before His face in joyful obedience. This call reshapes identity before it assigns activity; it establishes belonging before it demands service.

At the same time, God’s call presses outward into the whole of life. We are called to holiness and sanctification, to transformation into the likeness of Jesus Christ. We are called to freedom, yet also to suffering. We are called to bless, to serve, to imitate Christ, and to bear witness through the gospel. For some, this call includes a distinct summons to ministry; for all believers, it includes a vocational calling lived out faithfully in the ordinary and hidden places of life.

This book does not claim to offer an exhaustive treatment of the doctrine of calling. Rather, it seeks to provide a theologically grounded, pastorally sensitive, and devotionally rich exploration of the call of God as Scripture presents it. Its aim is not merely to inform the mind, but to steady the heart - to help believers rest in the God who calls, trust the grace by which they are called, and walk faithfully in the calling they have received.

Ultimately, the call of God is about God Himself. It is His gracious determination to glorify Himself by redeeming a people, conforming them to His Son, and drawing them into eternal communion with Him. To understand the call of God, therefore, is not simply to discern what we are meant to do, but to behold who God is - and to respond in faith, worship, and obedient love.