

# Answering the Call of God

## Introduction

1. The word “church” is translated from the Greek word “ekklesia” which is defined as: “a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place; an assembly; In the Christian sense, an assembly of Christians gathered for worship. (Thayer)
2. The word church has two meanings, or used in two different senses:
  - A. Universal sense:
    - 1) In this sense we are talking about the institution for which Jesus died and which is composed of all those called out of the world into God’s service.

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- a) **Jesus did not build His churches, but rather His church.**
- 2) We need to note the one church or one body idea that is taught in the Word of God.  
**Ephesians 4:4**  
**Ephesians 1:22-23**  
**Colossians 1:18, 24**
- 3) In this universal sense, the church is an institution. It is made up of individuals - not various congregations.
  - a) These individuals are added to the church (the body) through baptism (Acts 2:38 - Acts 2:47).  
**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

**B. Local Sense:**

- 1) **The local sense is the congregation that is composed of the called out (baptized) in any locality who worship faithfully together, lay by into a common treasury, and who work together through the common treasury.**
  - a) **An example of the church being used in the local sense can be found in 1 Corinthians 1:2.**

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is **at Corinth**, to those who are **sanctified in Christ Jesus**, **called to be saints**, with all who in every place **call on the name of Jesus Christ** our Lord, both theirs and ours:

- 2) **Those in the local church should not forsake the assembling together so as to be able to build up one another ( Hebrews 10:25).**
  - 3) **When qualified, elders are appointed to oversee the local church.**
3. **Since the nature of the church is seen in each term that it is said to be, the fact that it is called the church (called out), describes that there must be a calling.**

## Ways in Which God Calls Us

### 1. We are called to walk in the footsteps of Christ, following His example.

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

A. The word “example” literally means an “under-writing.”

B. Thus Christ has left us an “underwriting” or a “writing-copy,” an example.

- 1) Most of us in learning to write have had the instructor write across the top of the sheet of paper the example to follow. We were to write under the example. We were told to “follow the example.”

### 2. We are called by the gospel to the obtaining of the glory of Christ

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. This glory is what Jesus died for to bring us.

1 Peter 1:10-11 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

- 1) What glories would follow? The glory of salvation which was kept a mystery under the Old Testament.  
**1 Corinthians 2:6-8**

### **3. We are called to the hope of eternal life.**

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life**, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

### **4. We are called out of darkness into light.**

**1 Peter 2:9**

### **5. We are called out of Satan's domain into Christ's Kingdom.**

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us **into the kingdom** of the Son of His love,

#### **A. Since we have been called out of darkness, we should no longer be following blind guides.**

**Matthew 15:13-14**

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

#### **B. Since we have been called out of Satan's domain, the world, then we are no longer to follow him.**

**Romans 6:16-18**

### **6. We should learn that since the word means "called out" that it stresses separation from the world. To say one is in the church ought to mean one is set apart for God, one of a "special people."**

2 Corinthians 6:17 **Come out from among them And be separate**, says the Lord. **Do not touch what is unclean**, And I will receive you."

#### **A. We are to be separate like when one gets married – he is set apart for his wife. So when one is called out, he is then set apart for the Lord and should not be unfaithful by carousing with the devil!**

**James 4:4**

## **Facts Concerning the Call of God**

**1. Every accountable man and woman is called by God the same way today.**

**A. We are called by the gospel.**

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which **He called you by our gospel**, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**B. God is NO respecter of persons!**

Romans 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.

Acts 10:34....."In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

**C. To reject the gospel, is to reject the call of God.**

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who **rejects this does not reject man, but God**, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

**D. Today, God speaks to us through His Son Jesus.**  
**Hebrews 1:1-3**

## Conclusion

1. **The purpose of our calling is seen in God's goodness.**
  - A. **We are called for the riches of glory (Eph 1:18-19).**
  - B. **We are called for a prize, given after the goal is reached**

Philippians 3:14 I **press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2. **Let's make our call and election sure accepting the Call of God.**

2 Peter 1:10-11 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, **for if you do these things** you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- A. **As the scripture says, if we will do this, we will not fall!**
  - B. **This clearly shows that each and everyone of us has something to do with the calling; we MUST answer God's call.**
3. **We need to understand if the church means so much, how can the "calling" of God mean so little?**
  4. **Those that are added to the church, will have answered the "call" of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
  5. **Won't you answer the "calling of God" and be added to the church of our Lord?**
    - A. **And then remain faithful in that acceptance?**

