

As God Has Called Each  
1 Corinthians 7:17-24  
Sunday, May 2, 2010

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1 Corinthians 7:17-24 IS saying. . .

1. As one called to Christ, now recognize your work as a calling \_\_\_\_\_ to you by God. (7:17)
2. As one called to Christ, let Christ lift you up in your \_\_\_\_\_ work or humble you in your \_\_\_\_\_ work. (7:21-23)
3. As one called to Christ, now do your work "\_\_\_\_\_ God" and \_\_\_\_\_ God. (7:24)

### III. The Calling of Our Work

7 ways we can serve and magnify the glory of God in our work. . . .

1. Show the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ by doing our work with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Show the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ by doing our work with \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Show the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ by \_\_\_\_\_ our coworkers and customers.
4. Show the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ by the thoughtful \_\_\_\_\_ of the resources we earn from our work.
5. Show the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ by doing our work for Him.
6. Show the \_\_\_\_\_ grace of Christ, by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ our "neighbors" through our work.
7. Show the \_\_\_\_\_ grace of Christ by \_\_\_\_\_ sharing the Gospel of Christ, when appropriate, through our work.

### I. Our Calling to Faith in Christ

A Christian is one who has turned from their sins (repentance) and put their faith in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

If you're a Christian, you have been \_\_\_\_\_ by God to faith in Christ.

If you're not yet a Christian, God is \_\_\_\_\_ you today to faith in Christ.

### II. Our Work as Calling

In addition to our call to faith in Christ, the Bible speaks of other callings. . .

1. We are called to involvement and service in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We are called to roles in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We are called to citizenship in the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. We are called to our \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 7:17-24 IS NOT saying. . .

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**PREPARING to be with One Another**

Use a separate sheet of paper or notebook to work through these questions in advance of your Growth Group gathering. The more people come prepared, the richer and deeper and more real our discussions will be with one another.

**CONNECTING with One Another**

Open your time by checking in with one another to see how you're doing and how one another's week was.

**EXPLORING God's Word with One Another**

*Remember, we're giving you more than you can really discuss here. Pick a few questions that will take you back into the content of the passage and message.*

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 again. Read also Ephesians 6:5-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, Colossians 3:22-4:1.
2. What was most interesting and/or challenging for you in this week's text/message? What were the thoughts you had and/or the emotions you felt as you grappled with God's Word this week?
3. In 1 Corinthians 7:17-24, Paul is referencing more than one calling. In which places is he referring to our calling to faith in Christ? In which to other callings? Which references are unclear?

4. What does 1 Corinthians 7:17 imply about our work? (and other callings in life!) What is this asserting about God? Why is this hard to swallow, especially as Americans?
5. Does 1 Corinthians 7:20 mean we can never look for a new job? What does it mean? (Look at the larger context of the chapter!)
6. How should our calling to Christ transform the way we see and do our work? How does the Gospel lift up the one who has lowly work? How does the Gospel humble the one who has esteemed work?

**APPLYING God's Word with One Another**

1. Why do we separate and compartmentalize our work away from our spiritual lives?
2. What difference does it or might it make to see our work as a calling instead of just a job?
3. In light of 1 Corinthians 7, what can we say about the calling of a pastor and the calling of a jewelry maker and the calling of a garbage collector?
4. Which of the 7 ways to serve and magnify the glory of Christ was new for you? Which would you like to do better? Which are you doing well?

**PRAYING for One Another**

Share personal requests. Use the truth of the message as a "springboard" to pray for your personal growth, your Growth Group and the growth of our life together at GraceSLO.