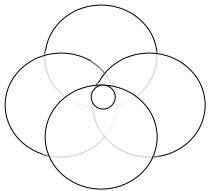


Presented by  
Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.  
Strategies@Work, LLC

# Strategic Life Alignment Alumni Event

## C4 Principle and Calling

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## SLA Review

- Session 1  
Your Vision  
God's Vision (the big picture)—His intentional plan and purpose
- Session 2  
Blocks to Finding Your Personal Destiny (alignment with God)
- Session 3  
Biblical principle for finding your life purpose—C4  
Calling
- Session 4  
Character
- Session 5  
Capability
- Session 6  
Commissioning and advisors
- Session 7  
Developing your personal life plan

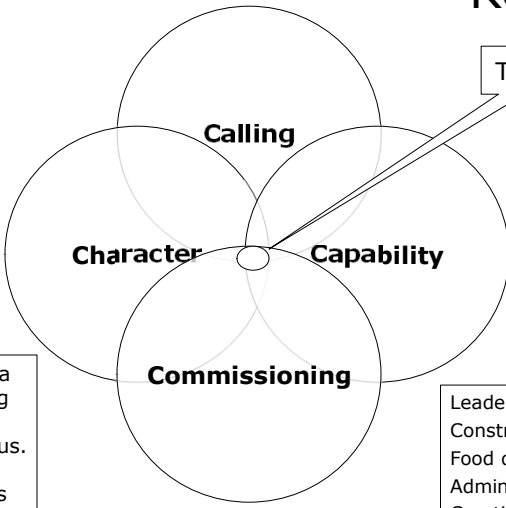
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C4 Principle  
 Calling  
 Calling is Rooted in Identity  
 Calling Illustrated

3



Passion the cry of our heart



**Calling**

**Character**      **Capability**

**Commissioning**

**Key Principle: C<sup>4</sup>**

Target

Skill and ability

Alignment with God

Validation by authority figures

Leadership/administration (Psalms 78:70-72)  
 Construction (Exodus 35:10-36:2)  
 Food distribution (Acts 6:1-7)  
 Administering justice (Exodus 18:17-24)  
 Creative work (1 Samuel 16:16-23)  
 ἐκκλησία leadership (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)

Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith . . . —Hebrews 12:1-2 CSB

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## Construction

Exodus 35:30–36:2



Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen (calling) Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God (character), with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts (capability) to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship. And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them master craftsmen and designers. So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded (commissioning). Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability (capability) and who was willing (calling) to come and do the work. —Exodus 35:30–36:2 NIV

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## Leadership

Psalms 78:70–72



<sup>70</sup> He chose David (calling) his servant and took him from the sheep pens; <sup>71</sup> he brought him from tending ewes to be shepherd over his people Jacob (commissioning)—over Israel, his inheritance. <sup>72</sup> He shepherded them with a pure heart (character) and guided them with his skillful hands. (capability) —Psalm 78:70–72 CSB

6

# Food Distribution

Acts 6:1-7

1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution (διακονία). 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right (ἀρεστός: pleasing) that we should give up (καταλείπω: leave => leaving their calling) preaching the word of God to serve (διακονέω) tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out (calling) from among you seven men of good repute (μαρτυρέω), full of the Spirit (character) and of wisdom (capability), whom we will appoint (commissioning) to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry (διακονία) of the word." 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose (calling) Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient (ὕπακούω) to the faith. —Acts 6:1-7 ESV

Kingdom Work—Order out of Chaos
C <sup>4</sup> is a Tool of Kingdom Order
Authority is Delegated
No Self-Commissioning
διακονία is to all Licit Vocations
Workplace Ordination
Ruling Well Facilitates Growth
Ruling Well Facilitates Evangelism
Ruling Well Facilitates Influence

7

# Administering Justice

Exodus 18:17-24

## C<sup>4</sup> can be discerned through General Revelation



<sup>17</sup> "What you're doing is not good," Moses's father-in-law said to him . . . <sup>19</sup> "Now listen to me; I will give you some advice, and God be with you. You be the one to represent the people before God and bring their cases to him . . . <sup>21</sup> "But you should select (calling) from all the people able men (capability), God-fearing, trustworthy, and hating dishonest profit (character). Place them (commissioning) over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. <sup>22</sup> "They should judge the people at all times. Then they can bring you every major case but judge every minor case themselves. In this way you will lighten your load, and they will bear it with you. <sup>23</sup> "If you do this, and God so directs you, you will be able to endure, and also all these people will be able to go home satisfied." <sup>24</sup> Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. - Exodus 18:17, 19, 21-24 CSB

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# Creative Work

1 Samuel 16:14–23

## Two commissioning agents



<sup>14</sup> Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and an evil spirit sent from the LORD began to torment him, <sup>15</sup> so Saul's servants said to him, "You see that an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. <sup>16</sup> "Let our lord command your servants here in your presence to look for someone who knows how to play the lyre. Whenever the evil spirit from God comes on you, that person can play the lyre, and you will feel better." <sup>17</sup> Then Saul commanded his servants, "Find me someone who plays well and bring him to me (calling)." <sup>18</sup> One of the young men answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre (capability). He is also a valiant man, a warrior, eloquent (capability), handsome, and the LORD is with him (character)." <sup>19</sup> Then Saul dispatched messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David (calling), who is with the sheep." <sup>20</sup> So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a wineskin, and one young goat and sent them by his son David to Saul (commissioning). <sup>21</sup> When David came to Saul and entered his service, Saul loved him very much, and David became his armor-bearer. <sup>22</sup> Then Saul sent word to Jesse: "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor with me (commissioning)." <sup>23</sup> Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would pick up his lyre and play, and Saul would then be relieved, feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. —1 Samuel 16:14–23 CSB

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# Church Leadership

1 Timothy 3; Titus 1

## C<sup>4</sup> for ἐκκλησία



<sup>1</sup> This saying is trustworthy: "If anyone aspires (calling) to be an overseer, he desires a noble work." <sup>2</sup> An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, (character) able to teach (capability), <sup>3</sup> not an excessive drinker, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy (character). <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own household competently and have his children under control with all dignity (capability). <sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup> He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil. (character) <sup>7</sup> Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil's trap. (character) —1 Timothy 3:1–7 CSB

<sup>8</sup> The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders (commissioning) in every town. ... <sup>9</sup> holding to the faithful message as taught (character), so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it (capability). —Titus 1:5, 9 CSB

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## Exercise

<b>Assess the Following Statements</b> (use an analog scale where 1—very low; 10—very high)	<b>Score</b>
The C <sup>4</sup> principle is a biblical tool to help people discern their individual RACE.	
Calling is the internal validation of the external call of God.	
Character is a measure of one's maturity in Christ.	
Capability is a measure of the development of one's innate abilities.	
Commissioning is a measure of one's submission to authority figures.	
One cannot self-commission.	
The C <sup>4</sup> principle can be discerned from both Special and General Revelation.	
Applying the C <sup>4</sup> principle in the ἐκκλησία facilitates order and healthy growth of the ἐκκλησία.	
The C <sup>4</sup> principle is the metric to qualify leadership in all jurisdictions.	
A component of godly character is being grounded in Christ and able to teach.	
<b>Total</b>	

11

## Exercise

<b>Discussion Questions</b>	<b>Comments</b>
What was David's calling—a fighter, shepherd, musician, or king?	
Can a pagan commissioning agent teach you the C <sup>4</sup> principle?	
Is evangelism more important than the ministry of food distribution?	
How many commissioning agents have you had in life?	
Can a person learn the C <sup>4</sup> principle through General Revelation?	
What is the relationship between the C <sup>4</sup> principle and your ministry?	
Can a pagan commissioning agent help you align with your C <sup>4</sup> ?	
Does a person have C <sup>4</sup> to do just one ministry?	
If more than one commissioning agent directed you to a calling, how would you respond?	

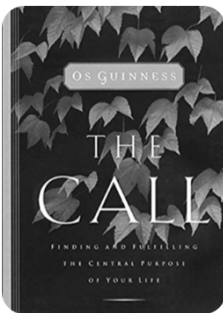
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C4 Principle  
Calling  
 Calling is Rooted in Identity  
 Calling Illustrated

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## Primary and Secondary Callings



Os Guinness distinguishes between the primary and secondary call.

**Primary calling: salvation** (regeneration, sanctification, glorification)

Our primary calling as followers of Christ is by him, to him, and for him.

(Os Guinness. The Call (Kindle Location 368). Kindle Edition.)

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. —Philippians 1:21 NIV

**Secondary calling: serve Christ** (i.e., find and fulfill our purpose in the meta-narrative)

Our secondary calling, considering who God is as sovereign, is that everyone, everywhere, and in everything should think, speak, live, and act entirely for him.

(Os Guinness. The Call (Kindle Locations 369-370). Kindle Edition.)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus . . . —Colossians 3:17 NIV

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# Calling Will Transform Society



"Calling is everyone, everywhere, and in everything."

"We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere; we are called to Someone."

"We are not called first to special work but to God. The key to answering the call is to be devoted to no one and to nothing above God himself."

"The power of calling is second only to the Cross in efficacy for producing cultural transformation."

<https://www.quotetab.com/quotes/by-os-guinness>

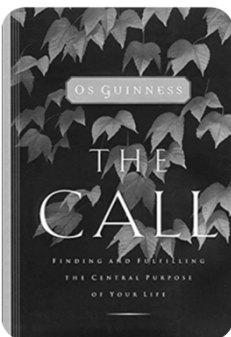
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# Senses of Primary Calling



The Biblical notion of calling as taught by Os Guinness:

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word translated "call" usually has the same everyday meaning as our English word. (Os Guinness. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (Kindle Locations 347-348). Kindle Edition.)

He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they **call**.  
—Psalms 147:9 NIV

To call means to name, and to name means to call into being or to make => to convey identity and the nature of being on the creature. (Os Guinness. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (Kindle Locations 351-352). Kindle Edition.)

Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man **called** each living creature, that was its name. —Genesis 2:19 NIV

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## Other Nuances of Primary Calling



Calling is a synonym for salvation.

(Os Guinness. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (Kindle Location 356). Kindle Edition.)

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. —Acts 2:21 NIV

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to live worthy of the calling you have received . . . There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling . . . —Ephesians 4:1,4 CSB

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. —Acts 2:39 NIV



Jesus calls his followers to holiness, suffering, and service.

(Os Guinness. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (Kindle Location 362). Kindle Edition.)

**Holiness:** But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do —1 Peter 1:15 NIV

**Suffering:** To this (unjust suffering) you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. —1 Peter 2:21 NIV

**Service:** Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them —Acts 6:3 NIV

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## Other Nuances of Primary Calling



Calling to sanctification

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours . . . —1 Corinthians 1:2 NIV



Calling to a standard of living and station in life.

Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. —1 Corinthians 7:17 NIV



Calling to hope

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints —Ephesians 1:18 NIV



Calling to persevere

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. —Philippians 3:14 NIV

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# Other Nuances of Primary Calling



## Calling to peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. —Colossians 3:15 NIV



## Calling to bless

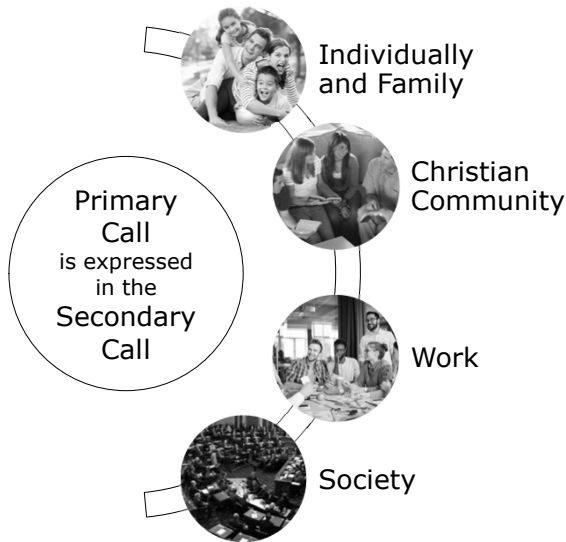
Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. —1 Peter 3:9 NIV



## Calling to eternal glory in Christ

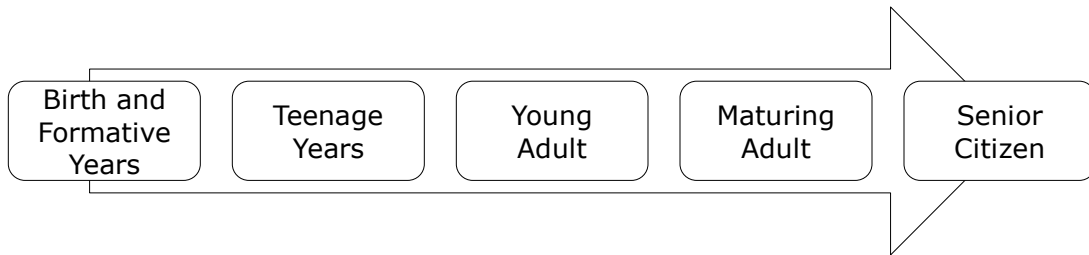
And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. —1 Peter 5:10 NIV

# Secondary Calling



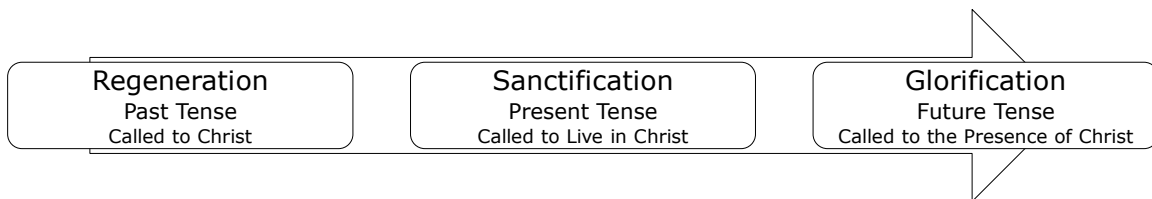
For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do. —Ephesians 2:8-10 CSB

# Specific Calling



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# Calling is a Process



You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption (past tense), by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children (present tense), and if children, also heirs—heirs of God (present and future tenses) and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him (present tense) so that we may also be glorified with him. (future tense) —Romans 8:15–17 CSB . . . For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. (future tense) . . . —Romans 8:19 . . . Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits (present tense)—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, (present tense) the redemption of our bodies. (future tense) —Romans 8:23 CSB

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# Key Principle of Secondary Calling

Passion the cry of our heart

Calling

Target

Character

Capability

Skill and ability

Commissioning

Validation by authority figures


















Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith . . . —Hebrews 12:1–2 CSB

Leadership/administration (Psalms 78:70–72)  
 Construction (Exodus 35:10–36:2)  
 Food distribution (Acts 6:1–7)  
 Administering justice (Exodus 18:17–24)  
 Creative work (1 Samuel 16:16–23)  
 ἐκκλησία leadership (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)

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## Clues to Secondary Calling

 Passion	 Heritage	 Name	 Faith	 Revelation	 Grace
 Favor	 Circumstances	 Provision	 Truth	 Delight Interests Life	 Relationships
 People Group	 Lifestyle	 Duty	 Dreams	 Prophetic Words	

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# Exercise

<b>Assess the Following Statements</b> (use an analog scale where 1—very low; 10—very high)	<b>Score</b>
The primary call is to the three-phase process of salvation in Christ.	
I have a secondary call to my family, workplace, church, and community.	
I know the unshakeable hope in Christ—the glorious inheritance of the saints.	
I know that it is my responsibility to find and fulfill the purpose of God for my life.	
The peace of Christ rules in my heart in every situation.	
I always bless others by encouraging and modeling alignment with the will and ways of God.	
I know that salvation is a lifelong process of transformation that culminates in glorification.	
Obedience to my primary call facilitates alignment with my secondary calls holistically.	
The secondary call is to find and fulfill my purpose in the metanarrative holistically.	
The Catholic Distortion of calling is dualistic because it minimizes callings to the workplace.	
The Protestant Distortion of calling is dualistic because it minimizes callings to ecclesiastical work.	
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Normalized Total</b> (divide by 1.1)	

25

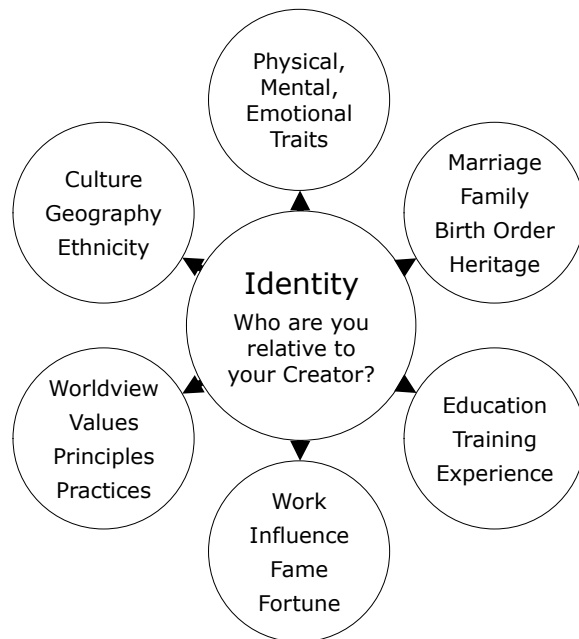
# Exercise

<b>How Well Do You Walk in the Following Traits of Your Calling?</b> (use an analog scale where 1—very low; 10—very high)	<b>Rating</b>
Calling is comprehensive (everyone, everywhere, and in everything)	
Called to salvation	
Called to holiness, suffering, and service	
Called to sanctification	
Called to a standard of living and station in life	
Called to hope	
Called to persevere	
Called to peace	
Called to bless	
Called to eternal glory in Christ	
<b>Total</b>	

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Calling  
Calling is Rooted in Identity  
Calling Illustrated

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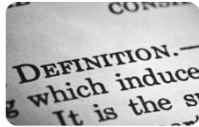
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# Created Imago Dei

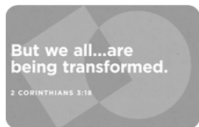


## You are created in the image of God (Imago Dei)

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." —Genesis 1:26 NIV



Definition of 'image': a physical likeness or representation.



Though mankind is fallen, if you have accepted Christ, you are being ever increasingly transformed into the image of Christ:

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. —Colossians 3:9–10 NIV

# Identity in Christ



33 works of God that comprise salvation  
*Systematic Theology*, III by Lewis S. Chafer, page 234–265

## Illustration: Adopted

When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. —Galatians 4:4–5 CSB

## Examples of Identity in Christ

Foreknown	Adopted
Child of God	New Creation
Justified	Accepted
Redeemed	Kingdom of Priests
Reconciled	Heavenly Citizen
Forgiven	Glorified
Delivered from the Kingdom of Darkness	



## Being vs. Doing

What is the relationship of your being to your doing?

You are a  
human being  
Not a  
human  
'doing'

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. <sup>19</sup> "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he gave the disciples orders to tell no one that he was the Messiah. <sup>21</sup> From then on Jesus began to point out to his disciples that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day. <sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to you!" —Matthew 16:16–22 CSB

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## The External Call



Calling implies a Caller.

The Caller is God, the Father.

LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. —Psalms 16:5 NIV

. . . "Out of Egypt I called my son." —Matthew 2:15 NIV

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. —Acts 2:39 NIV

The heavenly Father affirms our identity

And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." —Mark 1:11 NIV

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# The Internal Call



Your calling is hidden by God in your heart.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. —Proverbs 25:2 NIV

The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out. —Proverbs 20:5 NIV



Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart (leb). —Psalms 37:4 NIV (Note, if you are focused on God, your flesh will not drive you; hence, your God-given desires can come forth.)

Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing (leb) to come and do the work. —Exodus 36:2 NIV

# Spiritual Parents



Natural and spiritual fathers call us

. . . we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into . . . —1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 NIV



Natural and spiritual mothers encourage us

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. —Proverbs 1:8-9 NIV



Spiritual parents supplement natural parents

To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from . . . —1 Timothy 1:2 NIV

To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from . . . —Titus 1:4 NIV





My Story

## Spiritual Fathers/Mothers

Fathers	What I Learned
Natural Father	Business based on common grace and Christian ethics
Spiritual Father #1	Build my life on Scripture, how to study the Bible
Spiritual Father #2	Worldview, systematic theology, and expository teaching
Spiritual Father #3	How to walk in the Spirit
Spiritual Father #4	Holistic kingdom worldview

## Identity Theft



You must protect your identity in Christ.

To protection your identity, you must:

know your identity (Philippians 3:10; 2 Peter 1:3) and resist doubt (doubt precedes unbelief (Genesis 3:1ff)).

When Jesus was tested by Satan, the first temptation was a challenge to Jesus' identity, then his authority, and his destiny.

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

—Matthew 4:3–4 NIV

# Purpose of Identity Tests



The purpose of identity tests is to purify us so that we can fulfill our calling.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. —James 1:2-8 NIV

Jesus is the model for identity test.

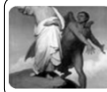
# Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. —Matthew 4:1-11 NIV



Challenge: Identity

Response: Deuteronomy 8:3



Challenge: Authority

Response: Deuteronomy 6:16



Challenge: Destiny

Response: Deuteronomy 6:13

## Lessons

- Don't let apparent needs attack your identity
- Be a good student of Scripture
- Don't compromise to fulfill your destiny

**Exercise**

<b>List Your Fathers</b>	<b>How Did They Commission You?</b>
Natural Father/Mother	
Spiritual Father/Mother #1	
Spiritual Father/Mother #2	
Spiritual Father/Mother #3	
Spiritual Father/Mother #4	
Spiritual Father/Mother #5	

**Exercise**

<b>How Does Your Identity (being)</b>	<b>Release Your Calling (doing)?</b>
Foreknown (part of God's plan) 1 Peter 1:1–2	
New Creation (made new) 2 Corinthians 5:17	
Child of God (of the species of the spirit) John 3:6	
Justified (legally free from the penalty of sin) Romans 3:26	
Redeemed (bought back from the bondage of sin) Titus 2:14	
Reconciled (relationship with creator restored) 2 Corinthians 5:18–21	
Forgiven (released from the responsibility of our sin) Acts 10:43	

**Exercise**

<b>How Does Your Identity (being)</b>	<b>Release Your Calling (doing)?</b>
Adopted (sons and daughters in the family of God) Ephesians 1:5	
Delivered from the power of darkness and adopted in the kingdom of the Son (in God's kingdom) Colossians 1:13	
Accepted By God (enmity with God because of sin is removed) Ephesians 1:6	
Kingdom of Priests (have authority to rule and direct access to God) 1 Peter 2:9	
Heavenly citizens (true community) Ephesians 2:19	
Glorified (divine nature unveiled in us) Romans 8:30	

C4 Principle  
 Calling  
 Calling is Rooted in Identity  
Calling Illustrated

# Calling Will Transform Society



The power of calling is second only to the Cross in efficacy for producing cultural transformation.

## Jesus' Calling *Who* Question

# WHO

### Son of God

a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love . . ." —Matthew 3:17 NIV  
. . . You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. —Matthew 16:16 ESV

### Adopted Son of Joseph

Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary . . . —Matt 13:55 NIV

### A Man on a Mission from the Father

. . . I have not come on my own; God sent me. —John 8:42 NIV

### Lord and Christ (Messiah)

Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah (Χριστός). —Acts 2:36 CSB

# Jesus' Calling

Whom Question



## Called to Sinners

- . . . For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.  
—Matthew 9:13 NIV
- . . . It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.  
—Mark 2:17 NIV
- . . . I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.  
—Matthew 15:24 ESV

# Jesus' Calling

What Question



## Will of the Father

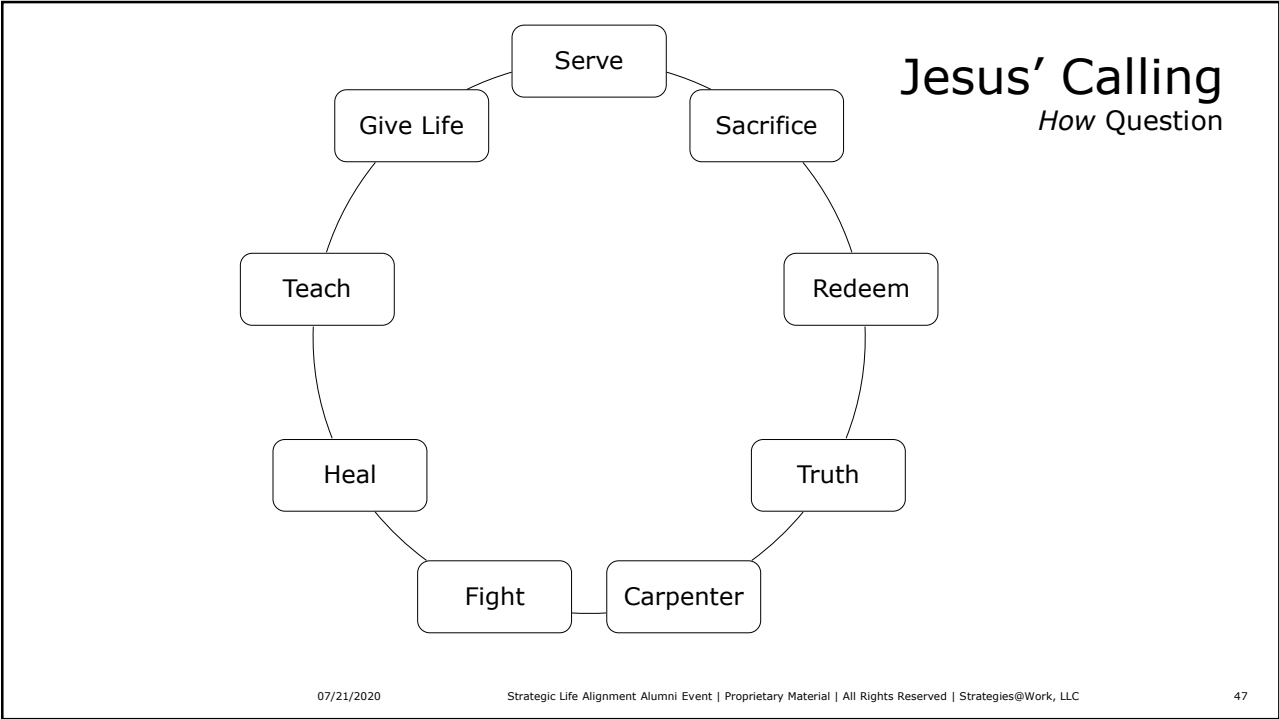
"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." —John 4:34 NIV

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." —John 6:38 NIV

## Ways of the Father

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." —John 5:19 NIV

For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. —John 12:49 NIV



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# Jesus' Calling

*Where Question*

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO PTOLEMY  
Circa 150 CE

Jesus spent his life in the Middle East though the known world was much larger.

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

—Acts 17:26 NIV

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# Jesus' Calling

When and Why Questions



Jesus operated with a profound sense of patience and timing.

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." —John 2:4 NIV

". . . I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come." —John 7:8–10 NIV



Jesus was clearly called to glorify the Father

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. —John 17:4 NIV

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# Joseph's Calling



Called to political power and the saving of his people.

All that happened to Joseph (the favorite son, shared his dream with siblings, sibling rivalry, presumed dead, sold into slavery, betrayed by his master's wife, imprisoned, helped the king's cupbearer, cupbearer delay reciprocating, and finally promoted to second in command) was a setup for his destiny to rule Egypt, save his family, and set the stage for the Exodus—all part of the metanarrative.



Joseph was called to rule in an alien country to provide for his family.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them . . . —Genesis 50:18–21 NIV

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## Daniel's Calling



Called to a life of unequal yoking.

Daniel was called to live as a slave in a foreign country his whole life and was challenged by his unequally yoked state.

At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. —Daniel 6:19–23 NIV

## Paul's Calling



Called to a life of suffering.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. —Acts 9:1–8 . . . But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." —Acts 9:15–16 NIV

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. —1 Peter 2:20–21 NIV

# Archippus' Calling

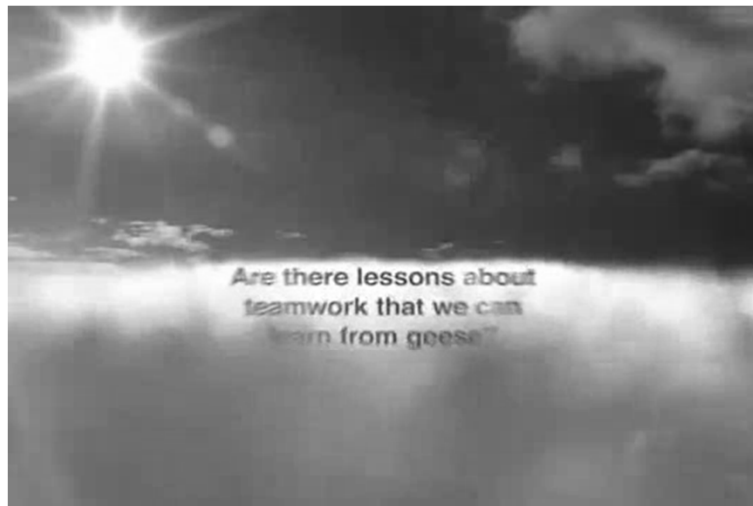


## Calling to workplace ministry

Tell Archippus (Ἀρχιππος: master of the horse): "See to it that you complete (πληρώω: to fill to the top) the work (διακονία: execute the commands of others) you have received (παραλαμβάνω: not to withhold obedience; join one's self) in the Lord." —Colossians 4:17 NIV

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home —Philemon 1:1-2 NIV

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But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? —Job 12:7-9 NIV

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# Community: A Threefold Cord



Community includes all jurisdictions: family, ἐκκλησία, the workplace, and community.

Note the concept of the threefold cord.

Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless—a miserable business! Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. **A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.** —Ecclesiastes 4:7–12 [NIV]

# Called to Community

To find and fulfill the call of God on your life requires community.



God's sovereignly places people geographically and in time

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. —Acts 17:26 NIV



God's sovereignly places people in local communities of believers

But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. —1 Corinthians 12:18 NIV



God designed his disciples to function in community

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. —1 Corinthians 12:12 NIV  
Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. —1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV

# Exercises

Answer the seven (7) questions (Who? Whom? What? How? Where? When? Why?) for yourself.

What are some of the characteristics of calling that Jesus, Joseph, Daniel and Paul had in common?

Describe your calling. Explain what you need from others to do what you are called to do. Explain how you can help others do what they are called to do.

Who are the members of your threefold cord?

If Jesus was called to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and the lost sheep are scattered all over the world, why did he limit his geographical influence to the Middle East?

Was Dietrich Bonhoeffer an example of Paul's calling or Daniel's calling or both?

# Take Away



## C4 Principle

The biblical principle for discerning your RACE



## Calling

Primary calling

Secondary calling



## Identity

Seek clarity on your identity

Protect your identity



## Examples

Learn from the patterns: Jesus, Joseph, Daniel, Paul, et al

Live in community under authority