

### Engaging the Heart

- I. The Protestant Reformation was very significant in many ways,
  - A. You realize the impotency of the 5 solas.
  - B. But did you know about the alls?
    1. All believers are prophets, priests and kings?
    2. All believers can be holy in their legitimate callings, not just in ecclesiastical callings?
    3. All believers should have God's Word available in his own individual language,
  - C. These solas and omnis had profound impact not only in the church but also the whole society.
- II. Perhaps the key to this whole shift was due to the God and Word centered nature of that movement.
  - A. Remember, the Reformation was ***personal to the core!***
    1. A tri-personal God loves individuals.
    2. These individuals were called by name by this God, John 10.
    3. Humanism, of all stripes, was man centered.
    4. Calling becomes a key concept in the Protestant Reformation, both in the general calling of salvation to sonship in general and the calling to a vocation of service.
- III. You need to grasp the significance of calling for human identity.
  - A. First, you need to understand the call to sonship.
  - B. Second, you need to understand the call to vocation.
  - C. Finally, you need to see the implications of the relationship between the two when abilities fade with aging.

### Exposition of the Word

- I. You need to understand God's calling to sonship.
  - A. Genesis 1: man is the image bearer of God.
  - B. The Fall mars and distorts this image but does not erase it.
  - C. God calls His elect to the adoption of sonship.
    1. In the Old Testament: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
    2. In the New Testament: Jn 1:12; Rom 8:12-17; Gal 3:26-28; Eph 1:3-6.
  - D. God's call comes to ***all*** true Christians and is the basis of sonship and service to God as God and Father.
    1. God chooses His adopted children, Jesus comes to save them and the Holy Spirit drags them to Jesus. See John 6; 17.
    2. Thus, believers are no longer sons of the devil but are sons of the King, Eph 2:1-10.
    3. The New Testament epistles explain how to live out this new life and identity individually and corporately, see Ephesians as an example.
- II. You need to understand the calling of God to His sons as to vocation and service.
  - A. This is one of the forgotten emphasis of the Protestant Reformation.
  - B. Christ gives gifts to His body, the church, Ps 68:18; Eph 4:7-16.

- C. The Great Commission is now superimposed on the Cultural Mandate which means it subsumes the former under it but does not replace it but redeems it.
    - 1. Gen 1:26-28 is the Cultural Mandate or call to work as God's vassal kings and queens.
    - 2. Matt 28:16-20 is the Great Commission which now places the original call in a redemptive context.
    - 3. These are the way that the two greatest commandments are to be fulfilled. The New Testament gives the details of the "how to dos'.
  - D. VOCATION is a calling to some specific expression of sonship as service to God and others.
    - 1. You need God to grasp Calling in contrast to Career.
      - a. See Proverbs on the importance of doing one's calling with craftsmanship.
      - b. Eph 6:5-9
      - c. Col 3:22-25
      - d. 1 Tim 6:1-2
      - e. Titus 2:9-10
      - f. 1 Pet 2: 18-25
    - 2. See the book: ***What is Vocation? (Phillipsburg: P & R, 2010)*** by Stephen J Nicols.
      - a. Defining Vocation
      - b. Working the Garden: a Biblical and Theological Framework for Work
      - c. How Not to Work
      - d. How to Work
      - e. Work and Paychecks
      - f. Finding Meaning in the Ordinary: Doing All to the Glory of God
    - 3. Also, William Perkins, ***Glorifying God in Our Jobs (Puritan Pub, 2015); God at Work (Wheaton: Crossway, 2002); Every Good Endeavor (NY: Dutton, 2012).***
- III. You need to see the relationship between the two Callings in the light of providential poundings whether accidents or aging. See Jay E Adams, ***Wrinkled but Not Ruined: Counsel for the Elderly***
- A. You fight to find you calling within you Call to sonship.
  - B. You fight to become as competent as possible.
  - C. Accidents or age chip away at abilities,
  - D. You may lose your competency in your vocation but your sonship does not fade. You may lose your secondary calling but never your primary, permanent call to sonship.
  - E. The lessening of capacity does not mean you are loved any less!
  - F. Examples abound: Joni E Tada; the woman in Wilmington Delaware.
  - G. You come into the world, bald, toothless and needing a diaper; you may exit it bald, toothless and needing a diaper! But you are loved even more!
  - H. The book by Adams is simple but extremely helpful.
    - 1. What is Aging?
    - 2. Some Preliminary Considerations
    - 3. A Different View of Aging
    - 4. Planned Obsolescence
    - 5. The Problem of Illness

6. Discouragement, Depression and Despair
7. Loneliness
8. Self-Centeredness
9. Anger, Bitterness and Cynicism
10. False Expectations
11. Planning and Scheduling
12. Introspection
13. Complaining
14. Doctrinal Problems
15. The Conclusion of the Matter

### **Exhortation for Life**

1. You must know your Calling.
  - A. As a son/daughter, Eph 1-3.
  - B. As a part of the Body, Eph 4.
  - C. As part of reflecting God's glory and power in our weakness
    1. Jesus's example, Hebrews.
    2. Paul's life, 2 Cor
2. You need to help others find their Callings.
3. You need to help other in the diminishing strength of old age.