

EXPLORING VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

TIM JOHNSON – RIDLEY COLLEGE MELBOURNE

VOCATION = CALLING

- What comes to mind when you hear the word 'calling'?
- Have you ever sensed God nudging you toward something before?

A BIBLICAL VISION OF VOCATION

- The Primary Call: to follow Jesus
- The General Call: to Christian character and service
- The Specific Call: to a particular ministry, role, or context

THE PRIMARY CALL: TO FOLLOW JESUS



THE PRIMARY CALL: TO FOLLOW JESUS

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who **called you out of darkness into his wonderful light**. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

THE PRIMARY CALL: TO FOLLOW JESUS

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and **called to be his holy people**, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

1 Corinthians 1:1-2

THE PRIMARY CALL: TO FOLLOW JESUS

God is faithful, who has **called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

1 Corinthians 1:9

THE PRIMARY CALL: TO FOLLOW JESUS

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God...through him [Jesus] we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are **called to belong to Jesus Christ.**

Romans 1:1,5-6

THE PRIMARY CALL: TO FOLLOW JESUS

Jesus went up on a mountainside and **called to him those he wanted**, and they came to him. He appointed twelve **that they might be with him** and that he might send them out to preach

Mark 3:13–14

THE PRIMARY CALL: TO FOLLOW JESUS

Before God calls us to do anything, He calls us to Himself.

This is the Primary Call.

THE GENERAL CALL: TO CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND SERVICE



THE GENERAL CALL: TO CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND SERVICE

For God **did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.**

1 Thessalonians 4:7

THE GENERAL CALL: TO CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND SERVICE

You, my brothers and sisters, were **called to be free**. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love

Galatians 5:13

THE GENERAL CALL: TO CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND SERVICE

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

THE GENERAL CALL: TO CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND SERVICE

But **you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9

THE GENERAL CALL: TO CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND SERVICE

For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

THE GENERAL CALL: TO CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND SERVICE

Every believer has a ministry and vocation, regardless of occupation

THE SPECIFIC CALL:
TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT



THE SPECIFIC CALL: TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT

The bible affirms that work is good:

- Genesis 1:26–28; 2:15: Humans are made to cultivate and steward creation.
- Proverbs celebrates craftsmanship, business, administration, planning.

THE SPECIFIC CALL: TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT

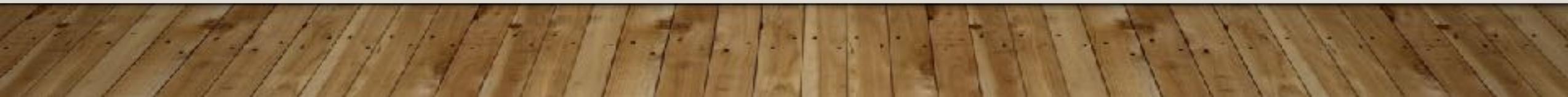
Whatever we do we do in service of God

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ... Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters

Colossians 3:17, 23



THE SPECIFIC CALL: TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT

God equips His people differently with different gifts

- Romans 12:4–8
- 1 Corinthians 12
- Ephesians 4:11–16

THE SPECIFIC CALL:
TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT

Within the church some are called to be pastors or shepherds of the flock

THE SPECIFIC CALL: TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

1 Peter 5:1-4

THE SPECIFIC CALL: TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

THE SPECIFIC CALL: TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

1 Timothy 3:1–7

THE SPECIFIC CALL: TO A PARTICULAR MINISTRY, ROLE, OR CONTEXT

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus 1:5–9

REFLECTING ON EACH OF THESE 3 CALLINGS

- Do I feel clear about this call?
- What feels the foggy or worth exploring?

DISCERNING A CALL TO VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

The Anglican call to ordained ministry involves:

- Inner conviction
- Outer confirmation (by others in the church)
- Testing of Gifts and character
- Training for the task (e.g., Ridley College)

DISCERNING A CALL TO VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

Do you believe that you are truly called to this order and ministry of deacons, being moved by the Holy Spirit to serve God and build up his people, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ and the order of this Anglican Church of Australia?

I do believe I am called to this ministry

DISCERNING A CALL TO VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

The archdeacon and a layperson, together with others if desired, present the ordinands to the bishop, saying

N, bishop in the Church of God, we present to you these persons/NN to be ordained deacon in the Church of God.

The bishop says

Can you assure us that they are suited by their learning and godly living to minister as deacons in the household of Christ, to the glory of God?

Those presenting the ordinands say

They have been examined. Enquiries have been made among the people of God, especially among those concerned with their preparation, and we believe that these candidates are fit for this office.

DISCERNING A CALL TO VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

1. Vocational calling
2. Faith and Godliness
3. Gifts of leadership
4. Gifts for preaching and teaching
5. Gifts for leading worship
6. Gifts of pastoral care
7. Gifts for Mission, Outreach and Evangelism
8. Positive Relationships

DISCERNMENT CIRCLES



Prompt 1: Heart (Desire & Passion)

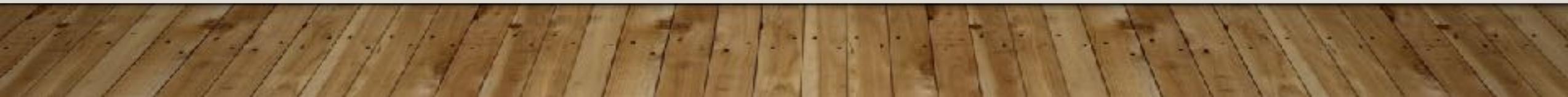
- “Where do you feel joy, burden, or conviction in serving God?”
- “Is there a type of ministry or context that energises you?”

Prompt 2: Head (Gifts & Ability)

- “What do others affirm in you?”
- “What fruit have you seen in areas you serve?”

Prompt 3: Hands (Opportunity & Church Needs)

- “Where do you see open doors in your church or community?”
- “Where is there gospel need?”



DIFFERENT PATHWAYS

**Pathway to Ordained
Anglican Ministry**

**Pathway to Lay Vocation
in Church & Workplace**

Both pathways are equally valuable in the kingdom



SPACE FOR QUIET, REFLECTION & PRAYER

- “Lord, where are you calling me to serve you next?”

NEXT STEPS?

- Talk with your Minister or a staff member
- Join a ministry team
- Begin a discernment conversation
- Try a ministry apprenticeship
- Explore theological study
- Commit to pray intentionally for 30 days