

Introduction: Calling & Gifting

The Lord orders our lives through a variety of vocations and responsibilities. While many believers share common callings such as marriage, parenting, work, and service within the church, no two people carry out those callings in precisely the same way. God has gifted each of us differently, but faithfulness in these callings comes through pursuing God's glory as we carry out the responsibilities He has entrusted to us.

Main Point: God calls all believers to participate in the spread of the gospel, but He _____ each of us particular people, places, and opportunities in which to serve.

Galatians 2:6-10

- Paul explains that the leaders of the Jerusalem church did not ask him to _____ his Gospel ministry in any way. (v. 6)

(1) Paul acknowledges that these leaders were men of “_____” and “_____.”
“those who seemed influential”

“what they were makes no difference to me”

- Their position of influence, from a human perspective, likely had to do with their close relationships to the Lord Jesus during His _____ life and ministry.

“God shows no partiality” – lit. “God does not _____ the _____ of man”

(2) These respected leaders had no major _____ on how Paul viewed or would go on to carry out his ministry.
“those, I say...added nothing to me”

“Paul has done two things at the same time: He acknowledges the reputable position of the Jerusalem leaders, but he minimizes them by focusing on their human reputation vis-à-vis God's final approval.” – Michael Burer

The Dangers of “Christian Celebrity” Culture

- It shifts the focus from _____ to His servants.
- It can create _____.
- It can create unhealthy _____.
- It can create unique _____ for leaders.

Key Point: While faithful brothers and sisters are worthy of our _____ and even _____, we must keep in mind that they are merely fellow servants of our mutual Savior and Lord.

- The Jerusalem leaders instead _____ Paul as a fellow servant of Christ. (vv. 7-9)

(1) These men _____ God was at work in and through Paul as He had been among them.

“when they saw I had been entrusted with the gospel”

“The verb ‘entrusted’ is in the perfect tense indicating a commission given prior to this Jerusalem meeting and of ongoing and indeed permanent duration” – Ben Witherington

(2) It was evident to these men that Paul was an _____ who was called by God even as they were.

_____ → *“the gospel to the uncircumcised”* _____ → *“the gospel to the circumcised”*

- Paul is not stating that there are _____ gospels for Jews and Gentiles respectively (Gal. 1:7), rather he is speaking of ministering the same gospel among various groups of people in particular locations. Paul often ministered among Jews (Acts 13:4, 14-15) and Peter had ministered among Gentiles (Acts 10-11).

(3) These leaders are then specifically named.

“James and Cephas and John”

_____ - The “beloved” disciple of the Lord Jesus, son of Zebedee, and author of multiple books of the NT. He played a major role in the expansion of the early church and crucially was with Peter ministering among those who had accepted the Gospel among the Samaritans (Acts 8:14).

- While these men had ministered primarily among Jews, their experiences seeing others come to faith would likely have made them favorable towards Paul’s ministry.

“pillars”

(4) The end result of the meeting was that they recognized they were _____ together in the calling to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“they gave us the right hand of fellowship”

(5) Their primary focus is the mutual recognition of God’s _____ and _____ as evident in their respective ministries.

“I had been entrusted...just as Peter...”

“He who worked through Peter...worked also through [me]”

“the grace that was given to me”

Key Point: True fellowship among believers grows as we _____ together and witness God's power at work in and through one another.

- The Jerusalem leaders made only one request of Paul. (v. 10)

(1) Paul was asked to keep the needs of the Jerusalem _____ in mind as he pursued his ministry.

“they asked us to remember the poor”

(2) This was already something on Paul’s heart and he saw it as an outworking of his Gospel (Rom. 15:25-27).

Key Point: Faithful leaders are ever _____ of the needs of their brothers and sisters in Christ, particularly those who are of low estate.

Paul’s Message to the Galatians

- The Galatians should acknowledge, as the Jerusalem apostles had done, that Paul was a minister of the Gospel and that he had specifically been called to proclaim it among Gentiles such as themselves.

Concluding Thoughts

1. We do well to consider the assignments the Lord has given to us (our vocations, relationships, and gifts) and how they can serve as _____ for fulfilling our calling to spread the gospel.
2. While God often calls us to unique ministry contexts, we are meant to serve in those contexts in partnership and fellowship with other believers in a local _____.

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