

Doctrine of those who are Called

The Epistles

1. The word “*called*” is a frequent and import word in the Epistles of the New Testament.
2. The word translated “*called*” is [kletos (klay-tos'); invited, i.e. appointed, or (specifically) a saint].
3. In the matter of salvation and service those who are “*called*” of God have received a divine appointment.
 - Paul was appointed to be an apostle for no man takes this honor upon himself. *Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,*
 - Every believer is divinely appointed by Jesus Christ. *Romans 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:*
4. Those who are the called of God are divinely appointed to be saints.
 - *Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
5. God will work together all things to those whom He has called or appointed to salvation according to His purpose.
 - *Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
6. Only those who have been predestinated for glory are effectively called or bidden to come to salvation.
 - *Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*
7. God has effectively called or summonsed to salvation not only Jews but Gentiles as well.
 - *Romans 9:24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*
 - *Romans 9:26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.*

8. The saints are called or ordered not only to salvation but unto the fellowship of Jesus Christ.
- *1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*
9. Those who are called know Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- *1 Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*
10. Those who are called by God to salvation are not unusually wise according to the standard of the world nor are they among the powerful families of the earth or the aristocratic.
- *1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*
11. The word called is used in a variety of contexts.
- Some are called unrighteous. *1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*
 - The saints are called to peace. *1 Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.*
 - All have been divinely appointed to a place in life. *1 Corinthians 7:17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches. 18 Is any man called being circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? Let him not be circumcised. 1 Corinthians 7:20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.*
12. It is possible to resent and want to resist what God has appointed. Nevertheless, the Christian is to submit to the Sovereign.
- *1 Corinthians 7:21 Art thou called being a servant? Care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.*
 - *1 Corinthians 7:22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.*
 - *1 Corinthians 7:24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.*

13. False teachers call many entities gods in heaven and in earth, but they are wrong.

- *1 Corinthians 8:5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

14. Christian humility will follow a person with a sense of the divine call to salvation and service.

- *1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

15. The call of God for salvation is a call of grace which must be understood and protected.

- *Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:*
- *Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,*
- *1 Thessalonians 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.*
- *1 Thessalonians 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*

16. The call of God brings forth much gospel fruit.

- Liberty. *Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*
- Hope, or better, spiritual confidence. *Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*
- Peace. *Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*
- Glory. *2 Thessalonians 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Eternal life. *1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

- An eternal inheritance. *Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*
- A heavenly city. *Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*
- Imputed righteousness. *James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*
- Glory and virtue. *2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

17. The gracious call of God to salvation is not based on human merit.

- *2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

18. Only God can appoint a person to special priestly service.

- *Hebrews 5:4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*

19. In His humanity, Jesus Himself was called of God.

- *Hebrews 5:10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.*

20. The call of God to service contains much mystery.

- *Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

21. God appointed the seed through which the Messiah and thus salvation would come.

- *Hebrews 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:*

22. The ungodly will speak in an unworthy manner about Christ through whom the elect are called.

- *James 2:7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?*

23. There are several motives or objectives of being called by God.

- To be holy. *1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*
- To be a divine display. *1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*
- To be an example in suffering. *1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*
- To receive a blessing. *1 Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*
- To be made perfect. *1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

24. The call of God to salvation and service is breathtaking in scope and wonder.

- *1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

25. When all is said and done, what matters most is that one can say of himself, “*I am called of God*”.

- *Jude 1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:*