

The Calling of the Church: to the Praise of His Glory

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 1.

B. There is no institution like the church.

C. The church is called according to God's purpose. (Romans 8:28; 1; 1 Corinthians 1; Ephesians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 5:10)

II. We are called "before" the foundation of the world.

A. We were picked out by God sovereignly.

B. We did not find God; God found us.

III. We are called "out," which is our redemption.

A. We are called out of death, sin and darkness. (Romans 6)

B. We are a redeemed community.

IV. We are called "from" the world.

A. This is our sanctification. (1 Peter 1:15)

B. We are called to be separate from the world and uncompromising. (Colossians 3, 1 John 2)

C. We are to seek holiness and blamelessness. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

V. We are called "to" God.

A. We are not a religion of rules. (1 Thessalonians 1)

B. We are called to a personal union with God and a marvelous fellowship. (1 John 3, John 17)

VI. We are called "under."

A. This refers to revelation.

B. We have the word of God, and we are called to submit.

C. We are under God's authority through the Word of God.

VII. We are called "with."

A. This refers to unification.

B. God will bring all things together in the end.

C. To be one we have to be humble and love each other. (Philippians 2)

VIII. We are called “unto” an inheritance.

A. Our focus is future.

B. The church is called unto glory.

IX. We are called “for” the praise of God’s glory.

A. Our purpose is proclamation.

B. The church should declare God’s glory to God, the angels and the world.

Application Questions:

1. Which calling of the church stands out to you? What strikes you about it?

2. Why is understanding the church’s identity important?

3. Why is it important to be a part of a local body in light of the message? Explain.
