

# Christian Calling in the Marketplace

Understanding and Living Out God's Call on Your Life  
Presented by Micheal Hickerson

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## What is Our Calling?

Unlike previous generations, who could expect to work the same job their entire careers, today's workers expect to change jobs many times, change entire fields several times, perhaps even return to college new training in a new profession. At the same time, we are often told "Love what you do," "Follow your bliss," "Find your true calling." The result is confusion and dissatisfaction.

For Christians, the tension can be especially difficult. We hear about people like Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Jonah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Peter, Paul, even Jesus himself, who receive crystal clear calls from God. Our calling is far from clear for most of us. Because we don't hear God's voice, we wonder, "Is this really what I'm supposed to be doing?"

## Mistakes about Calling

Neither the world nor the church offer much help. Our society largely measures callings by how profitable they are or how much personal satisfaction they bring — standards that receive little credit in the Bible. In the church, "calling" is too often used solely for "religious" vocations — the calling of a minister or missionary, the vocation of a priest, monk, or nun. The implication is that the work that most of us do most of the time does not matter to God, when it actually matters a great deal to Him.

## God's Call on Our Lives

Truth is, God calls all of us to himself. Calling is not about a career, even a religious career. As Os Guinness writes, "First and foremost we are called to Someone." Unless that is kept straight, we will frequently be confused and frustrated. If we keep God's call to Himself in front of us, however, the meaning of our work and the rest of our daily lives falls into place.

## God's Call to the Marketplace

Our calling from God matters in the marketplace. Paul tells us that God has given us pastors and religious teachers in order to "equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph. 4:12). The work of God is not primarily done through "religious professionals," but through ordinary Christians, who spend most of their professional lives in the marketplace. Throughout Scripture, there are many examples of men and women whom God has used in the marketplace - including Paul himself!

## Living Out God's Call

How do we make God's call real and apparent in our daily lives? As Christians, we must take seriously the work that we do and consider it in the context of our relationship with God. Andy Crouch, in his recent book *Culture Making*, writes, "The only way to change culture is to make culture," and one of the primary ways that Christians can change culture is through our work in the marketplace.

## About Micheal

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Micheal Hickerson is Associate Director for InterVarsity's Emerging Scholars Network, a national ministry that helps Christian students and professors understand God's call and become redeeming influences in higher education. He holds a Masters in Christian Studies from Regent College, and lives in Northern Kentucky with his wife Elizabeth and their three children.