

**How To Waste A Life  
(1 Corinthians 7:17-24 September 15, 2019)**

# How To Waste A Life

— 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 —



Pastor Craig – I don't know what God wants me to do with my life.

That is a very common question I am often asked.

I want to let you in on a little secret. I am not a continuationist – I do not receive revelations from God about my life let alone yours – so if you ask that I will reply – but with a biblical answer. Micah 6:8. What does God want?:

He has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

But if I do that I then get these strange looks – yeah – I know that – but that isn't my question.

I need details – should I go into ministry, should I marry, who should I marry, should I have kids, should I go to uni or not, should I go to Zambia as a missionary – I really need details.

God doesn't give us details – He gives us commands to follow.

So why am I asked?

Somehow the idea has permeated the church that God has sovereignly designed an ideal path for each of us.

A path we need to find to be in the sweet spot of His will – where we can benefit the kingdom the most, experience the most joy and see the most fruit.

And if my life is not humming along – one of the reasons must be that I am outside this specific life path.

So I have to find that sweet spot through prayer, reading the Word, divine impressions, providential opportunities and godly counsel.

Godly counsel – that is why I am asking you Craig! Just give me details.

Well – little problem – that is **not** the teaching of the Bible – at all.

God doesn't care if you your life's task is to be a cleaner or the Prime Minister – He cares whether you are faithful and godly.

At the Great White Throne – God will not say – next – Sarah Gibson – Oh I see your vocation ended up – physiotherapist! That's OK – but you realise if you had prayed a bit more and been a lawyer you would have done more for the kingdom.

No – God will open the books to see our faithfulness to His commands.

Don't get me wrong – you can choose to seek the office of Prime Minister – just don't think that you can serve Him better there – or that is somehow a higher office than serving faithfully as a cleaner.

The Bible is clear – and perhaps no more so than in our passage this morning.

**You don't have to change your life – you just have to commit your life**

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God isn't looking for uber-talented, hyper-trained geniuses to change the world through their efforts – nor does He need you to change your marital status, your social status, your number of kids, your tax bracket to serve Him – He just wants you to commit to loving Him, serving Him and telling the world about Him.

If you want to see God use you to help spread the kingdom – just put up your hand and say – here I am use me.

Now please don't mishear me.

Sometimes you *should* change. If you become saved and you were a drug Lord or a prostitute – I want to say very clearly – God wants you to change – you are not called to reach all the drug dealers and prostitutes from within.

No – such **were** some of you.

Get out and bring as many out as you can.

And as well, it's not wrong to change – you can marry – you can change profession – you can move countries – but don't think these are somehow *necessary* to serve Him better.

We find this in our passage in 1 Corinthians – a book where Paul gives us:

**Cross-centred wisdom for flawed saints.**

We are in a section that began in chapter 7, a section in which the church at Corinth asked Paul a slew of questions.

We saw that the first question they asked was basically – in light of all the immorality around if I am married wouldn't it be godlier to live as if I am single? Our little group in Corinth think being single is a godlier way to live your life.

Paul was adamant in his answer – **no way!**

Marriage, singleness, sex – God has a plan and a place for all of these. Married people living as if they are single is not somehow godlier – and it most certainly won't end immorality.

Changing your marital status is not a way to godliness.

In our passage Paul says:

**To be godly you don't have to change and:**

**Be celibate**

**Be separate**

**Be different**

**Just serve God as you are**

We have seen Paul say that if you are married you don't have to become celibate or separate from your spouse in order to be godly.

Paul takes this principle – you can serve God just as you are – you don't have to change – and in this morning's passage he applies it more broadly.

You don't have to be different – just serve God as you are.

Our passage this morning outlines like this:

To live a God-honouring life:

You don't have to change spiritually 18-19

You don't have to change socially 21-23



**To live a God honouring life:**

**You don't have to change spiritually 18-19**

**You don't have to change socially 21-23**

To set the scene, I want us to think about the Gospels where Jesus called the 12. Consider Mark 3:13–19:

Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those he wanted. ... He appointed the Twelve: To Simon, he gave the name Peter; and to James the son of Zebedee, and to his brother John, he gave the name "Boanerges" (that is, "Sons of Thunder"); Andrew; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.

But after calling them – Jesus did not tell them to change some major parts of their lives.

He did *not* say to them:

Gentlemen – welcome – but obviously the task before us is huge – and let's be frank – the 12 of you are not much to work with.

All Jews – not even one Roman among you.

No scholars, no generals, no politicians, no men of power and influence.

But – fortunately we have a few years.

John, Andrew and Philip – we need a few scholars and philosophers so you are going to train under Gamaliel until you know every jot and tittle of Old Testament Law and under Seneca until you know the best Rome has to offer.

Matthew and Judas – we need administrators, money men. I have organised courses in money management then you will get Me a business plan.

Peter and Simon the Zealot – we need leaders – men the world will follow. You will train in the Roman Legions and master Sun Tzu's – *The Art of War*.

To reach the world you must know the world. Each of you will spend time in different pagan nations. You need to be able to pass as Roman citizens.

Some of you need wives – we will find you wives.

Some of you need public speaking skills – courses are organised.

We will turn you from Galilean hicks to men of the world – and then you will change the world.

That may have been how Craig Lloyd would have done it – but it was most certainly **not** how the Son of God did it.

Jesus called the 12 – raw, untrained, ill-prepared – fishermen, freedom fighters, tax-collectors. He knew exactly who He called.

He used them as they were – imperfections and rough edges and all. Scripture says He immediately sent them out to teach, to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

Jesus set them to work as they were when He called them.

Jesus sets **us** to work as we were when He called us.

Why – so His glorious power can be displayed through using imperfect vessels to work His will.

To see this – please turn with me to 1 Corinthians 7:17. Paul begins:

Let each one live his life in the situation the Lord assigned when God called him. This is what I command in all the churches.

Notice if you will that Paul says the same thing in verse 20 and verse 24.

17: Let each one live his life in the situation the Lord assigned when God called him.

20: Let each of you remain in the situation in which he was called.

24: Brothers and sisters, each person is to remain with God in the situation in which he was called.

Paul is adamant. This is an important principle.

You should honour God in the life situation in which you were called.

This morning as we look at verses 17-24 please notice that Paul uses this word **call** eight times in these few verses.

But what does he mean when he speaks of our **call**?

Traditionally, when Christians use the term 'call' – they usually mean something like:

The specific path God is calling me to follow.

It is as if God has a preferred path for each of us and we need to find that path and walk it to be in the centre of His will.

This terminology has spilled over into the way people in the world think.

Yesterday I was reading an article about Morgan Hipworth. He is an 18 year old Aussie who loves food and started his own business – *Bistro Morgan* – that is already turning over some serious money.

In the interview this line caught my attention:

Unfortunately a lot of kids hate on me, maybe because they're jealous and frustrated I've found my calling.

Food is my sweet spot – my calling – and I found it – the thing I am supposed to do with my life.

Christians also often talk as if they have to find God's secret plan for their life.

They pray and put out fleeces and finally say something like:

I believe God has called me to marry Mary and be a missionary in Algeria.

Really? But what if Mary says – marry you! – I don't even like you let alone want to marry you – and the mission board says – you're no missionary – and he ends up single and working as a teacher in Australia – he is living some kind of second class life – is he outside the will of God?

I want to say the answer is – no! No!

You are outside the will of God if you are living faithless, disobedient lives.

While it might sound wonderful to think that God has one preferred plan for each of our lives and to be in the centre of His will we have to find that plan and follow it – this theology of call – has caused immense problems for individuals and churches.

- How do you know what the will of God is for your life? Did God speak to you? Is it some type of feeling? Did God show you through a fleece or a sign or a feeling? Just how certain are you this is from God?
- Can the call of God ever change?
- Is it a sin to not follow the will of God – or is it more of a suggestion?

I have counselled wonderful people totally confused by this idea of call.

Couples who believe they should divorce because now they think they got the call to marry wrong.

Men who felt called to the ministry but had to leave and now feel their service is somehow unimportant.

Women who felt called to singleness but now feel betrayed by that call.

I want to suggest that underlying the confusion is a messed up theology of call.

There are two ways *call* is used in the Bible.

### **1. God calling men to specific roles of service.**

In the Old Testament – Prophets and leaders – in the New Testament – the 12 and Paul – to be Apostles.

You can read about the call of the 12 in the gospels.

You can read about Paul's call in many places including verse 1 of this book – 1 Corinthians 1:1:

Paul, **called** as an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will.

Yes, the 12 were called to leave their nets and their tax-collecting and follow Jesus.

Yes, Paul had a dramatic Damascus Road experience where Jesus told him he was to become Apostle to the Gentiles and then in Acts 13 he and Barnabas were set aside to go to the Gentiles.

But here is the crucial thing – these were very specific experiences.

In the Old Testament Prophets and Kings were called and set aside – and now Apostles are called.

But nowhere else in the Old or New Testaments do we have any similar theology of call that applies to all Christians.

No example of a pastor being called, Elders being called – in the way the Prophets were or Paul was. No supernatural revelation and direct command.

Even less is there any reference to us expecting a call to decide marriage, singleness, particular vocations or the like.

So how did we end up with this pervasive notion of call?

We blame Martin Luther for many things and we can probably blame him here too.

Historically, it seems that Luther took the idea of Paul being called as an Apostle as a precedent for men called to the ministry. Then – based in part on his understanding of 1 Corinthians 7 – he later expanded this to cover secular employment. He said that any area of work may be a “calling” from God.

Others then used 1 Corinthians 7 – the passage we are looking at – to expand this to social situations like marriage and singleness.

Over time this idea that God calls us into specific areas of service and social status became the accepted Christian viewpoint.

However, I want to say that this is **not** biblical and can be dangerous.

In our passage Paul makes exactly the opposite point. Instead of saying – find the call and change your life to fit the call – he clearly says – stay as you were when you were called.

You see – apart from the call to Apostleship – all of the other uses of *call* in the New Testament are of the second use:

## **2. God calling us to salvation and the faithful service that entails.**

For example 1 Corinthians 1:9:

God is faithful, you were **called** by Him into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God calling men from darkness into the light of salvation is the way Paul always uses **call** – *except* when he is talking about his own unique call.

In our passage, Paul clearly uses **call** – to refer to God’s call to salvation.

Why is this significant to cover before we look at this morning’s passage?

I am going to put two statements up on the data projector.

The first represents the traditional view of calling in the Christian church.



The other, I want to suggest, is the biblical view.



*In general – seek to change your life to the one God designed for you.*

*In general – don't seek to change your life from the one when God called you.*

Look again at verse 17. Do you think this means?:

Let each one seek to change his life to the situation the Lord designed him to find and walk in.

Or:

Let each one live his life in the situation the Lord assigned when God saved him.

Clearly it is the second one.

Paul keeps saying – stay as you are – remain as you are – not change what you are.

Paul's point is you don't have to change to please God. You don't have to get circumcised or become free or change to some different life – you can serve Him as you are.

Don't mistake what Paul is saying.

He is not saying you can't **ever** change your life situation. It not like:

If you are single when you became a Christian – bad luck marriage is out for you.

If you are a slave at salvation – unlucky – slave for life.

If you are childless – well you can't have children.

No – Paul's point is different. You don't **have** to change before you can fully serve God or honour God.

In fact Paul would say – **if you aren't putting Him first now in the situation you are in – changing something is not going to make you put Him first later.**

Often we look at our life and think – I want to live for God – but I need to change a few things to really be able to serve Him.

I need training, I need a spouse, I need to get my sin under control, I need to learn biblical Greek, I need to learn guitar.

The problem with this thinking is that it seems to say God needs a better you to impact the world.

He needs you richer, better trained, more powerful – then He can use you to change the world.

No – God can use Balaam's donkey, fishermen, little children – anyone. In fact His usual pattern is to use the weaker, the lesser, the nobodies – so He gets the glory.

Listen to 1 Corinthians 1:26–29:

Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, so that no one may boast in his presence.

If God's plan was to call and use brilliant men and women and powerful men and women – He could have just called the movers and shakers.

Filled the church with Presidents, billionaires and influencers.

Paul says – look God does choose some wise and powerful – but the church is mainly filled with those the world sees as foolish and weak – why?

If the church grows through the work of the powerful, they become the heroes of the movement – they get the glory – not God.

God uses us – weak, flawed us – in whatever situation we are in – so He gets the glory.

God doesn't ask us to change – He just asks us to be faithful where we are.

Brothers and sisters – whatever your situation – it is not a disappointment to God.

In fact God assigned your life. He chose it – He designed it. He gave you your own mission field to minister in.

God called you in that state for a reason.

In case it is not obvious – let me point out a few truths.

Slaves reach slaves best. Jews reach Jews best. Singles mix best with singles. Marrieds mix best with marrieds.

When you are called – whatever state you are called in – a young, Asian, female accountant – that state was assigned to you by God.

In that state you have a particular sphere of influence.

Serve God in that state. Reach those people in your sphere of influence. Bloom where God planted you.

Find your happiness in serving God – not by seeking to change.

If every slave who is saved says – I am a slave I need to be free – who will reach the slaves?

If every Gentile says – I need to be a Jew – who will reach the Gentiles?

So the *general* principle is this:

**Remain as God called you.**

Reach those God put around you.

Let me pick on someone – Warren.

God is not up in heaven letting out a big sigh and saying – you know Gabriel – that Warren Kramer has potential – but unfortunately he chose to be a chippie – if only he had found the better path I designed and been a dentist – imagine the impact.

Sharing the gospel all day to a trapped captive audience who can't object.

No. God designed everything about Warren when He decided to open His eyes to the gospel.

God knew he was in love with an Aussie girl named Heidi and would marry and live in Australia.

He knew he had hopes of being a carpenter – and hopes of marrying and having a child – and Paul says – there is nothing about Warren that God did not assign – that was the life situation God had planned for Warren when He called him.

God put Warren where He is today.

His occupation – chippie – which means he works alongside and around very particular men and women.

He assigned him unique neighbours and friends.

Married – that brings different people into his orbit.

He is about to have a kid – that means 20 years of parents, kids, aunties coming into his life.

Where he shops, the sports he plays, the hobbies he has – they all make up his particular life situation.

No one else in world history has his unique, individual sphere of influence acquaintances and impact.

Yes, Warren could have become a dentist – and that would be fine if that was what he wanted.

Paul's point is not Warren has to find the will of God – is it pulling nails or pulling teeth?

His point is – change if you want – but that is not something you **have** to do in order to please God.

**Put more effort into serving where you are than changing what you are.**

Do you think God cares whether Warren the carpenter shares with clients or Warren the dentist shares with patients?

God just wants him faithfully loving, serving, committing. And God gave him his own special mission fields – and Paul says – spend your energy in those mission fields not in changing your life.

And in case the Corinthians think he is singling them out – he says:

This is what I command in **all** the churches.

Corinth, Rome, Grace Bible Church.

Now Paul gets specific.

**To live a God-honouring life:**

**You don't have to change spiritually. Verses 18-19**

Was anyone already circumcised when he was called? He should not undo his circumcision. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? He should not get

circumcised. Circumcision does not matter and uncircumcision does not matter. Keeping God's commands is what matters.

It is not the operation of circumcision that is in view – but what it points to.

We might paraphrase it like this:

Was anyone a Jew when he became a Christian? He should not seek to become a Gentile. Was anyone called as a Gentile? He should not try and become Jewish. Jew or Gentile it does not matter. Keeping God's commands is what matters.

Some in Corinth were Jews who came to Christ. We know from texts of the day that many Gentiles ridiculed Jews and their circumcision. Some even underwent an operation – epispasm – to try and undo their circumcision.

Some in Corinth were Gentiles who came to Christ. We know from letters like Acts, Romans and Galatians that some pressured them to become ethnically Jewish and receive circumcision.

Paul is clear – your ethnicity counts for anything.

Galatians 3:28:

There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Jews don't please God better; Gentiles don't please God better.

What pleases God? John 14:15:

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Seeking to please God, to love Him, to serve Him.

I doubt too many here have felt a pull to adopt Judaism – and I really doubt too many men thought a little snip of circumcision will make you godlier.

Although – we have had one couple join a cult that teaches you need to keep the Old Testament Law and become more Jewish to truly please God.

But overall this isn't a tension we feel too much.

But, there are some related tensions we feel.

Here is one I know some deal with – while some in Corinth though certain ethnicities were more spiritual – we sometimes think certain occupations are more spiritual.

Is it the best way to serve God – to go into ministry or become a missionary?

Short answer – no!

Longer answer – no!

Look I do want men and women to seriously consider these vocations. But not because they are more godly. If you have the desire and the gifts – these are a good way to serve the kingdom.

But believe me – a godly baker is just as pleasing to God as a godly pastor.

The baker has his mission field – staff, customers, neighbours, family.

He has far more chance of reaching them than any pastor.

Some people are better bakers than pastors – so please – stay a baker.

If you love God and people – feel free to serve him by making bread or if you have the gifts by telling them about the living bread. Both are good.

Here is another way we often try and change spiritually.

Thinking certain cultures are more spiritual.

I am thinking as an example when Western missionaries went into Africa.

They pushed their culture as the godly way to live.

Africans in Congo had to dress like Londoners – read the King James – sing Isaac Watts' hymns.

Look – I don't know what you think happened in a house church in Corinth – but it was nothing like what we do on a Sunday.

People sitting in pews and one person preaching.

Standing to sing songs like we do.

Communion with little bits of bread and little cups – not as part of a whole meal.

Meeting for an hour and a half not a whole day.

Meeting in a church building.

What we do is not right or wrong. We have taken the essential truths and practices and made them fit our culture without compromising the meaning.

We can be Aussie 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians. Yes we keep bad aspects of culture out – but we don't have to be 17<sup>th</sup> century British to be godly.

Keeping God's commandments is what matters.

Verse 20:

Let each of you remain in the situation in which he was called.

Paul then gives a second principle:

**To live a God-honouring life:**

**You don't have to change socially. Verses 21-23**

Were you called while a slave? Don't let it concern you. But if you can become free, by all means take the opportunity. For he who is called by the Lord as a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called as a free man is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of people.

Were you called while a slave? Don't let it concern you.

Many read that and it rankles. Fine for Paul to say – he was a free man.

The problem is we read this through the morally repugnant lens of racial slavery – such as in the American South.

The slavery of the Roman Empire was different – it was more an indentured servitude. Many were considered part of the household. Many were well educated.

And you could buy your freedom.

Paul is not saying to slaves – don't ever seek freedom.

He is saying there is a greater imperative – seeking to serve Christ.

If you are a slave when you come to Christ – that is OK. Minister as a slave. Reach slaves. Serve your master well and show them how a Christian slave serves.

And if the opportunity comes to be free – take it.

Slavery is not the issue – because in a very real sense we were all slaves – but we were freed by Christ.

We were freed to spend our years serving him – not wasting our years trying to earn freedom before we serve.

We are bought at a price – a steep price – to serve Him – so serve!

In Philippians 1 Paul talks about his situation – imprisoned for being a Christian.

He doesn't say – pray earnestly that I get out so I can share the gospel and get on with being Apostle to the Gentiles.

He says – what happened to me has actually advanced the gospel – the whole imperial guard has to hear about Christ night and day – God knew what He was doing.

So many times I hear from people – my life needs to be a bit different – then watch out – then I will serve God.

Here is a: **Life cycle of a wasted life.**

I just need to change a few things then I can serve.

I'm in school – but I'll serve when I finish school. Right now I'm too young. Getting a degree is crucial so I need to work hard to get into the right degree.

I'm in university – but I'll serve when I graduate. Right now I am so busy. Once I graduate I will have more time and money to serve.

I'm single and in the workforce – but I'll serve when I settle down and marry. My career is just taking off. These are the crucial years getting ready for the rest of my life – getting my career established and finding the right spouse.

I'm married – but I'll serve soon. The Bible says don't serve in the army your first year of marriage. I need to work on my marriage and bed it down – and then I'm happy to serve.

I'm a parent – but I'll serve when the kids are in school. Wow – broke, sleep-deprived and so tired. Once the youngest kid is in school I will have time to serve.

I'm in young married mortgage debt – but I'll serve when that is paid down a bit. School fees, mortgage stress. We are both in the workforce and totally tapped out time wise – but I'm sure that will end soon.

I'm in teenage purgatory – I'll serve when they finish school. Sports, dance, school events – I'm exhausted – but I have to spend time with the kids now because the door of family life is closing – and surely the church wants me to put my family ahead of the church – but I'm sure a slower day is coming.

I'm an empty-nester – but I'll serve soon. This is the first time in my life I have 'me time'. All the trips we put off, all the repairs – now is my moment. And retirement is coming fast – I have to get ready for that – but soon I can finally serve.

I'm a retiree – but still too busy to serve yet. I have grandkids to look after and sick relatives. Surely that will end and – then count me in too serve.

I'm old and getting closer to heaven – and can't really serve now – but I guess I'll have the time to serve there.

I don't know which stage of life you are in – I don't know what reasons you tell yourself as to why you can't serve.

I just need to ...



Get through this phase of life  
Get my weight down and health up  
Get married  
Get the kids out of home  
Get a better job  
Get my home paid off

Look – ministry and serving God must not rule out a good relationship with God and looking after your family – but if your life is such that you are too busy to fit any serving God, putting His kingdom first, sharing Christ – ministering where God put you – then you are wasting your life.

There will always be some excuse why now is not the time to get the neighbors over, to serve on a roster, to share with a relative.

Just live for Christ wherever you are – in every phase of your life.

Verse 24:

Brothers and sisters, each person is to remain with God in the situation in which he was called.

This passage tells us how you really view this life.

If this world is all there is – then by all means spend every minute seeking wealth, pleasure, experience, movement up the social chain.

If it is not – spend every minute serving God and laying up treasure in heaven.

When Jesus called us – He opened our eyes to the truth. We are sinners and our only hope is trusting His work on the cross to wash away our sins.

That becomes more important than any job, relationship or possession.

If you are here this morning and want to know more of this – if you can't imagine anything more important than this world – please talk to me.

So how does this passage apply to us?

When you make decisions about how you will spend your life ask these *three* questions:

**1. Do I want to do this for me or for God?**

Is this a selfish decision or a kingdom decision?

Do I just want the better job, position, house, life for me or is it to serve God?

**2. What is the ministry around me right now?**

Who are the people in my life?

What are the opportunities I have today?

What mission fields am I missing?

### 3. What excuses am I making to not serve?

Do I tell myself – I can't really serve now, give now, share now – but soon I can?

The point of this passage is that God has appointed each of us a mission field and designated a period of time to serve that mission field.

Bloom where God planted you.

Instead of seeking greener grass – water the grass where you are and make your patch green for God.

If you are married – make your marriage the best example of Christ's love for the church you can.

If you are single – serve Him devotedly – but if you meet someone and together you can serve Him better – it is fine to marry.

Wherever God has you – your work, school, neighbourhood, social activities – serve Him faithfully there.

Spend your energy where God planted you in the sphere of influence He assigned you.

So:

Can you change jobs – yes.

Can you get married – yes.

Can you improve your financial position – yes.

Can you become a missionary – yes.

But you don't need to. You have a mission field right where you are.

Never changing your life is **not** Paul's point.

His point is don't spend all you have seeking the things of this world as if they will fulfil you.

Wherever you are – with whatever you have got – seek first His kingdom – then everything else will be added to you.



## **How To Waste A Life (1 Corinthians 7:17-24 September 15, 2019)**

**Main Point: You don't have to change your life – you just have to commit your life**

### **General Questions:**

1. What do Christians generally mean when they talk about the call of God or God's call on their life?
2. Where do you think this idea came from? Is it biblical or not? What are the dangers?
3. If God did need us to change to better serve Him – why would this end up robbing Him of His glory?
4. What is Paul talking about when he refers to the life situation assigned by God v. 17?
5. Is Paul saying we cannot change the circumstances of our life or we don't always need to? Why? What is the significance of the difference?
6. Is it more spiritual to be a pastor than an accountant? Why or why not?
7. What are the pressures to change things spiritually in our lives?
8. What are the pressures to change things socially in our lives?
9. Why is there such a desire to change our lives?
10. Since we were bought at a price – how should we live?

### **Application Questions:**

1. Have you made or not made decisions based on a call from God?
2. What are the ministry opportunities in your life?
3. How can we find accountability for the decision we make to ensure they are kingdom decisions not selfish decisions?
4. What excuses do you tend to make to put off serving God?
5. What can you do now to stop wasting the talents God gave you?