**Called For Service and Work**

**2/3/19**

***4****There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.* ***5****There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.* ***6****There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,* ***12****to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up* ***13****until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)*

Opening thoughts

* We are Called **by** God **to** be followers of Jesus Christ just **as** we are **from** wherever we are **for** service and work.
* Referee image and reference to Superbowl – “this is NOT the call we are talking about today!”
* God’s call is to you for love of neighbor and service for others. (Cahalan)
* Claimed in Baptism and called in various aspects of life. Westwood church
* “It’s our way of life and it’s organic.” – Westwood church member
* We believe in this worldview of calling – we are part of an initiative to create a culture of calling. But it won’t stop in 3 years. We believe so strongly in this that the church leadership has tweaked the vision statement: All Ages! All In! Loving God! Loving All! Is explained as:
* (See bulletin and screen) Palm Harbor UMC is an intergenerational community called to a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ and committed to loving God and loving others.
* We are called to a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ and committed to loving God and others! That is what the ALL IN means! We are called to follow Jesus; not just on Sunday, but at all times. As the definition says “it is our way of life.”

Superbowl Sunday

* Thanks for supporting FEAST
* Favorite part of Superbowl – commercials, half-time show, special honors – Hall of Fame inductees
* We are celebrating one year of our Say Yes campaign. Many volunteers have served in various positions inside and outside the church. We want to honor you today.
* PHUMC Hall of Fame
* Call areas of service
  + Ask to hold applause, for these volunteers – “We give you thanks O God.”
  + Now if all who have stood and any area I might have missed, please stand. Let’s give our thanks to one another for serving God this year!
  + See a staff member after service for your “sweet reward!”

Called FOR

* In this worldview of calling, we begin to see everything through the lens of calling.
* ***4****There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.* ***5****There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.* ***6****There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.****7****Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given* ***for*** *the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*
* *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,* ***12****to equip his people* ***for*** *works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up* ***13****until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)*
* .Paul talks about 2 kinds of gifts:
  + The universal gifts that we receive through grace at our baptism. These are faith, hope, and charity (or love). These enable us to embody Christ’s call to loving relationships with God and our neighbors. (1 Corinthians 13)
  + The specific gifts we receive through grace are gifts of the Holy Spirit for building up the church. As Pastor Dave said last week, God doesn’t call the qualified, he qualifies the called. If God calls you to a particular task or situation, He will gift you for it.
* Spiritual gifts
  + Apostle, prophecy, evangelism, pastoring, teaching, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, discernment of spirits, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, administration, service, encouraging (exhortation), giving, leadership, helps, and mercy
* Life’s too busy to add one more thing
  + This is not a “new” program, but a new mindset; worldview. “It is our way of life.”
  + Calling often starts at home – spouse, parent, child, caregiver
  + How are you using the gifts that you have identified in these places? For example, if you have the gift of mercy, you may be a very good, nurturing caregiver to someone. Or if your gift is administration, maybe you handle all of the family finances.
  + As we continue to create this culture of being called by God, our hope is that you will see your whole life as a calling from God. Take your work life….some of you have a job that is not your passion or area of giftedness, but it puts food on the table and pays the bills. How can you use your gifts in that setting? “God calls us to the work in the job, but perhaps not to the job!” (Cahalan) Within a difficult work environment, God can still use you to be a witness to his goodness and love. Maybe your gift is encouragement or exhortation. I’ll bet the people in the office could use some encouragement if it is a difficult place to work. Or perhaps you have the gift of service or helps. Your classmate is struggling with math and you have a knack for numbers. Helping them with their homework might just be where God is calling you that day.
  + Martin Luther said that any kind of work can be a Christian vocation because you are called to love God and serve your neighbor through your work. I encourage you to see all that you do through the lens of God calling you. It will make you a better student, a better spouse, a better parent, a better worker, a better boss, a better church member, a better person.

Examples of Called From/For

* I want to share a story with you. A person came to me last week after receiving the Power of Prayer weekly email. It was focusing on Called From. I have permission to share this story, but will protect the person’s privacy. She felt, in her words “called,” to come and share with me. You see, God called her out of a very abusive relationship. For years she lived in fear of her husband. She was beaten and even imprisoned. God called her from that situation. It was very difficult to get out and she was frightened he would find her, so she continued to live in fear. Once she was free, God called her FOR work and service. She became active in the community helping those in similar situations; even opening her home as a shelter.
* Jesus came FROM heaven to earth to give his life FOR us. When Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his disciples he said “Do this in remembrance of me.” Through this lens of calling, we can view our lives and service to others as a remembrance of what Christ has done for us. Jesus was saying “break yourself, sacrifice yourself, give of yourself” because when we give to others we are doing what Jesus is doing for us. We are remembering Christ. We are living into the call to be followers of Jesus.

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