

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

February 12th, 2023

Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

How Do I Discover My Calling? (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

"Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called." (v. 20)

1. How has God made me? (vv. 17-19)

2. Where has God placed me? (vv. 21-24)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper

2. Read verses 17, 20, and 24. What is Paul's main point in this passage? How does Paul apply this principle (viz., "*remain as you are*") in verses 1-16 and verses 25-40? What *doesn't* Paul mean by this? What does he mean?
3. Paul is writing to people who are status-conscious and upwardly mobile. How does he challenge their worldview in this passage?
4. Read verses 18-19. Why would Gentile Christians seek to be circumcised? Why would Jewish Christians seek to remove the marks of circumcision? How does Paul respond to each group? In what sense are circumcision and uncircumcision irrelevant for Christians (v. 19)? In what sense do they retain significance? How does this shape how we look at our own cultural identities?
5. In verses 21-23 Paul addresses slaves. He tells them not to be concerned by their current condition (v. 21). What does this mean (compare verse 22)? How does Paul's counsel to slaves (see especially v. 23) differ from his counsel to every other group of people in 1 Corinthians 7? Why is this significant?

Application:

6. Jeff noted a few ways that cultural identity shapes our calling. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
7. Jeff noted several ways that verses 21-23 shape our view of work and social status, and what this means for pursuing God's call. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?