

**God's First Call—Adam & Eve**

Series: When God Calls

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15 (1812)

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**Man's second BIG mistake.**

## I. How are we to understand “the call of God”

### a. A common, but narrow understanding many believers embrace

Romans 1:1 NIV *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God*

1 Corinthians 9:16-17 TLB *...preaching the Gospel isn't any special credit to me—I couldn't keep from preaching it if I wanted to. I would be utterly miserable. Woe unto me if I don't. ...for God has picked me out and given me this sacred trust, and I have no choice.*

### b. The Bible affirms a much broader, more inclusive call

Isaiah 43:1 NLT *But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.*

1 Peter 2:9 NIV *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

1 Thessalonians 2:12 NLT *We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.*

Os Guinness *“For followers of Christ, calling neutralizes the fundamental position of choice in modern life. “I have chosen you,” Jesus said, “you have not chosen me.” We are not our own; we have been bought with a price. We have no rights, only responsibilities. Following Christ is not our initiative, merely our response, in obedience. Nothing works better to debunk the pretensions of choice than a conviction of calling. Once we have been called, we literally “have no choice.”*

Matthew 11:29-30 TM *“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”*

## II. Learning from the call of Adam and Eve

### a. What did God's call to Adam and Eve actually entail?

Genesis 1:26-28 NLT <sup>26</sup> *Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”* <sup>27</sup> *So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.* <sup>28</sup> *Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it.*

3 (1812a notes)

*Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”*

Genesis 2:15 NIV *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

*“Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.*

*...They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.*

*... God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth...*

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

### **b. What was the ultimate temptation Adam and Eve faced?**

Bob Jones, Sr. *The Devil did not tempt Adam and Eve to steal, to lie, to kill, to commit adultery; he tempted them to live independent of God.*

Genesis 3:5 NIV *...you will be like God*

### **c. Applying what we know from the call of Adam and Eve**

2 Corinthians 3:18 TLB *But we Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.*

Os Guinness *“Do we enjoy our work, love our work, virtually worship our work so that our devotion to Jesus is off-center? Do we put our emphasis on service, usefulness, or being productive in working for God—at his expense? Do we strive to prove our own significance? To make a difference in the world? To carve our names in marble on the monuments of time? The call of God blocks the path of all such deeply human tendencies. We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere; we are called to Someone. We are not called to special work but to God. The key to answering the call is to be devoted to no one and to nothing above God himself.”*