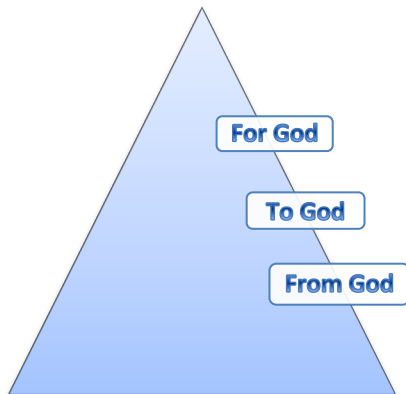


# Understanding My Calling

## A. My Primary Call

The **primary call** that every person (including every pastor's spouse) receives is:

- **from** a Person (not an organization)
- **to** a Person (not a vocation or a place)
- **for** a Person (not an organization or congregation)



**"Follow Me."** Matt. 4:19

The God of all grace who **called you**  
to His eternal glory **in Christ.** 1 Peter 5:10

**"Abide (remain) in Me."** John 15:4

**"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and  
with all your soul and with all your strength."** Deut. 6:5

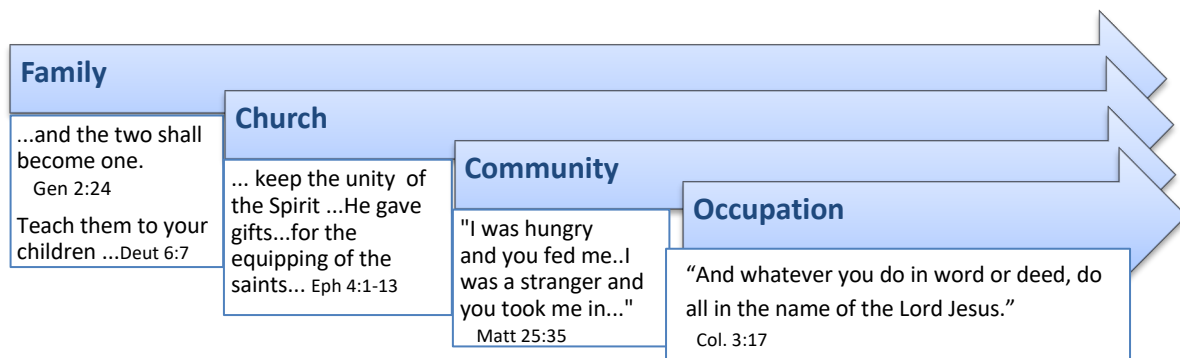
**"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
do all to the glory of God."** 1 Cor. 10:31

### Discussion Questions:

1. For you, when did God become more than just a word or distant concept?
2. When did you first sense God calling you to Himself? (Note: NOT to an organization, but to Himself.)

## B. My Secondary Call or Response to the Primary Call

Every follower of Jesus receives a **secondary call** to minister God's grace to others: starting with those closest and dearest – one's own family - and then to the church family, the community and through one's occupation.



### Discussion Questions:

Do you agree with the above? If not, explain briefly how you view God's secondary calling on your life.

And the **God** of all grace, Who **called you to His eternal glory in Christ**,  
after you have suffered a little while, will Himself **restore** you and make you  
**strong, firm and steadfast.** 1 Peter 5:10 (NIV)

## Personal Identity



- Gender
- Personality
- Family Background
- Ethnicity & Nationality
- Intelligence
- Body Image
- Values/Beliefs/Convictions
- Wife or Husband
- Parent / Grandparent
- Education

Within us each we possess a magnificent diversity, potential for change, and a glorious future. Overarching all is our kinship with God by creation (Gen. 2), Christ's crucifixion (Acts 20:28), and adoption (Gal. 4:5-7). Thus our true identity is to be a child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

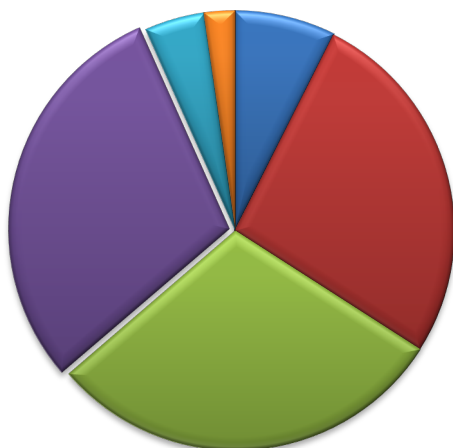
### Discussion Questions:

1. In two or three sentences share something positive about the way God made you.
2. Romans 12:6 says that "we have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." Do you know your gifts? If so, list or share briefly what they are.
3. When church members expectations clash with what you believe God is calling you to do, how do you deal with it?

### Private Meditation Question:

How do I keep my primary calling from being obscured by secondary *things*?

## Roles' I Carry



- Child
- Wife or Husband
- Parent
- Employee
- Minister's Spouse
- Community Member

### Activity

On a piece of paper draw a similar pie-shaped diagram indicating the main roles that you assume (including any other ones not shown in the diagram) according to the comparative amount of time that they currently occupy in your life. Share with your family how you are managing to balance them! ☺

Note: this graphic is given only as an example.

## D. Understanding Your Ministerial Spouse 'Role'

Each minister's spouse defines her or his 'role' related to being married to a minister. At different times of your life, these can change. Which do you relate to right now?  
(Not all will apply to spouses of chaplains and theology/religion teachers.)

- 1 **Supportive/nurturing** – see to spouse's and family's physical and emotional needs but not involved in a ministry to the congregation or organization where my spouse works
- 2 **Partner in ministry** – use my gifts to intentionally minister to the flock/organization in harmony with the priorities of my spouse
- 3 **Companion** – but with my own vision, spiritual passions & ministry which may be outside of the church congregation, school, etc
- 4 **Assistant to pastor** – like to teach, counsel, and preach, etc.
- 5 **Traditional** – support spouse, hold the expectation that my whole family needs to uphold a persona of a role model to the congregation; pictures the family living in a glass bowl; outward appearance is very important
- 6 **Detached** / have my own profession – do not want to be a part of my spouses' ministry (possibly experiencing isolation and loneliness)
- 7 **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

Share - with God and your spouse or someone that is a trusted support to you - what is your comfort level with this part of your life as a ministerial spouse.

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Donna Jackson, until recently, served as an NAD associate ministerial department director responsible for ministerial spouses' support.