

The Gospel and the American Dream

Intro

What is the American Dream?

Our culture's answer to the quest for *purpose* and *identity*

I. Created with a Calling

A. Who are we?

- Humanity as the Image of God

B. Why are we here?

- The Story of a kingdom

II. Fallen from the Call

The American Dream and the lost center

- You are what you do (Identity/Purpose in Vocation)
- You are how you do what you do (Identity/Purpose in Performance)
- You are what you make (Identity/Purpose in Wealth)

III. Redeemed by and to a Calling

- You are whose you are (Identity/Purpose in Calling)

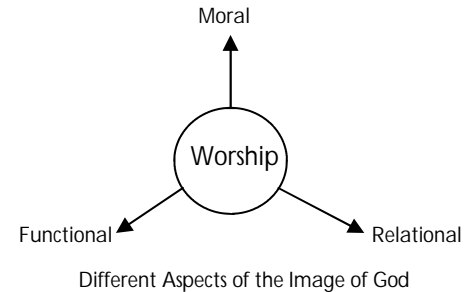
The NT epistles use the word "calling" in 2 main ways:

1. Identity - God's gracious call that turns us from our sin back to Him (Acts 2:39, Rom. 8:28-30; 1 Cor. 1:24, Gal 1:6, 15; 2 Thess. 2:14; 2 Tim. 1:9; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 2:9)
2. Purpose - God's call to us to live out the gospel in every sphere of life (Acts 13:2, Rom. 8:28-30, 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Eph. 4:1, Phil. 3:14, 1 Thess. 4:7, 1 Pet. 1:15, 2:21, 3:9)

IV. ReCreated with a Calling

A. An Eternal Calling—Eph 1:18, Heb. 9:15, 1 Pet. 5:10

B. A Bigger Dream— Rev. 21:22-22:5



How does what you do enable you or others to exercise dominion over the earth, cultivating its resources for the profit of both humanity and the earth itself? If you can locate your occupation within this process, you will discover a divine nobility in your tasks. (Michael Wittmer, *Heaven is a Place on*

Our primary calling as followers of Christ is by him, to him and for him. First and foremost we are called to Someone (God), not to something (such as motherhood, politics, or teaching) or to somewhere (such as the inner city or outer Mongolia). Our secondary calling, considering who God is as sovereign, is that everyone, everywhere, and everything should think, speak, live, and act entirely for him. (Os Guinness, in *The Call*)