

The Clarion Call of Christ

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Clarion
- The Clarion Call - it's a ringtone that delivers an awesome and distinctive alert...
- ...which will ensure that the user will never again miss another spam based robo-call.
- But seriously - if you're a person who tends to miss important phone calls - because you didn't hear it ring...
- ...then you might consider downloading the clarion call - which is a sound clip...
- ...that was designed to cut through all of the noise pollution that surrounds us everywhere we go.
- And in order to understand why they call this ringtone the Clarion Call...
- ...it'll help you to know that - the word - clarion - refers to a sound that is loud and clear - and difficult to ignore.
- Etymology
- The word - clarion - was also used in reference to a medieval horn that was used to produce a pure and clear tone...
- ...which was able to communicate clear instructions - as it cut through the clamorous sounds of a noisy battle.

- In a Christian context - the clarion call is a metaphor - for the way in which the Lord Jesus calls every person to trust in Him.
- The Clarion Call of Christ is the spiritual summons - by which the Holy Spirit draws sinners to the cross of Christ...
- ...so that they might repent - and receive the free gift of grace - by faith in the sacrifice of our Savior - Jesus.
- With that being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that the Lord has enabled every person to hear this call.
- And what this means is that - every single sinner is able to hear the clarion call of Christ.

II. Outline

● Points

• Call

- Here in our text today - - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...the clarion call of Christ is extended to every person - regardless of our unrighteousness.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...Christ didn't call us because of our Station
 2. ...Christ didn't call us because of our Sanctity
 3. ...Christ didn't call us because of our Status
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 7...

- ...where we find Paul helping the original recipients of this epistle to realize that Christ has called us by His grace.

III. Station

● Set up

- Context
- As we make our way to the seventh chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take some time to put our text back into it's context.
- I should begin by reminding you - it was back in the beginning of this chapter...
- ...where Paul shifted his attention to the questions that the Christians in Corinth presented to him - in a prior correspondence.
- He began by encouraging singles to remain celibate - until their wedding day.
- Not only that - but he also encouraged those who were married - to keep their covenant with their spouse.
- Now - here in our text today - we find Paul - helping his audience to comprehend the clarion call of Christ Jesus.
- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 7 - beginning there at verse 17 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 7:17 But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches.

1Co 7:18 Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised.

1Co 7:19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.

1Co 7:20 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.

1Co 7:21 Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.

1Co 7:22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave.

1Co 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

1Co 7:24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

- Call

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth - to understand the clarion call of Christ.

- For the sake of clarity - it'll help you to know that the word - call - which is found nine times - here in these verses...

- ...was translated from a Greek word - which refers to an authoritative summons.

- And while this word was used in reference to those who receive a special call to a specific ministerial office...

- ...the same Greek word was also used in reference to the invitation - by which a person is able to enter the kingdom of God.

- This of course is the clarion call of the gospel message - by which sinners can be saved.

- Gospel

- In order to prove my point - let's consider how Paul used this same Greek word - in 2nd Thessalonians 2 - where he declared...

2Th 2:13 ...we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2Th 2:14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- According to Paul - the Lord is the One Who CALLS us - as He sends His servants - to preach the gospel message of grace.
- And while it's true that the Lord CALLS us into the fellowship of faith - with the gospel message of grace...
- ...it's also true that He calls those who answer His call - to accomplish the great commission...
- ...by becoming those believers - who are presenting others with the call of Christ Jesus.
- And it's here in this section of scripture - where Paul reminded his readers - that God has called each one of us.
- But
- Let's consider again how Paul put it - there in verse 17 - where he declared...

1Co 7:17 But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches.

- As we take a closer look at this verse - we must not fail to consider the conjunction that connects this statement...
- ...with the point that Paul has been making - in the first half of this chapter.
- With this as our focus - I should remind you that Paul was encouraging singles believers to see their singleness as a gift.
- He also encouraged Christian couples to maintain their marriage - and yes - this included those who were married to unbelievers.

- But regardless of whether a person is single - or married - Christ calls each person - according to His grace.

- Remain

- In order to explain my point - let's consider again how Paul put it there in verse 17 - where he declared...

1Co 7:17 But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches.

- As we consider what Paul was saying - in light of the context - it seems to me that he was helping his audience to realize that...
 - ...they didn't need to change their station in life - so that they could walk worthy of their calling.
 - In other words - those who were single - didn't need to get married - in order to serve the Lord.
 - And those who were married to an unbeliever didn't need to get a divorce - in order to serve the Lord.
 - And those who had been divorced - shouldn't think that they were disqualified from serving our Savior.

- Guzik

- I like the way that Pastor David Guzik explained it in his commentary - here's how he put it...

No matter what your station - married, single, divorced, widowed, remarried, whatever - God can work in your life. Instead of thinking that you can or will walk for the Lord when your station changes, walk for the Lord in the place you are right now.

- Christian - listen - if you're a single who thinks that you need to get married before you really start serving the Lord...

- ...then you're failing to realize that - God called you - when you were a single.
- And if God called you to Himself - after you were already married to an unbeliever...
- ...then it would be a mistake to think that he wants you to divorce your spouse - so that you can serve Him.
- And if Christ called you after you were already divorced - then - why would you think that you've already been disqualified?
- Invite
- Further proof of my point can be found in the parable that Jesus presented in Matthew chapter 22 - where He declared...

Mat 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,

Mat 22:3 "and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

Mat 22:4 "Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."'

Mat 22:5 "But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

Mat 22:6 "And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.

Mat 22:7 "But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Mat 22:8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

Mat 22:9 'Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

Mat 22:10 "So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - presenting a parable which was designed to help His audience to understand that...
- ...Christ is calling everyone to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- As a matter of fact - when Jesus referred to the servants who were sent out to INVITE everyone to the wedding...
- ...He was actually using the same Greek word - which was rendered - CALLED - here in our text today.
- And what this means is that - the Lord is calling everyone to the wedding - no matter their station in life.
- Walk
- And listen - He's not only calling everyone to trust in Him - - but He's also calling those who trust in Him - to accomplish their calling.
- With this as our focus - let's take another look at verse 17 - where Paul declared...

1Co 7:17 But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk.

- Now - that word - walk - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who make progress...
- ...by making a proper use of the opportunities and situations before us.
- And in the context of the Christian life - those who walk by faith - will look for every opportunity to accomplish our calling in Christ.
- With this as our goal - I encourage every Christian to realize that our station in life shouldn't stop us...
- ...from becoming believers who accomplish our calling in Christ - as we move forward in faith.

- Paul

- In order to further make my case - we should consider the example that Paul demonstrated - as he accomplished his calling in Christ.
- And with this as our focus - hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Philippians chapter 3.
- As we make our way to the third chapter of Philippians - I wanna take some time to remind you that...
- ...Paul was a zealous Pharisee - when he heard the clarion call of Christ.
- And while it's true that he persecuted the church of God beyond measure - in an attempt to destroy the Christian faith...
- ...it's also true that Christ Jesus called him into the faith - as Paul was traveling on the road to Damascus.
- Then - after he responded to the clarion call of Christ - Paul set out to walk by faith - in order to accomplish his calling.

- Application

- Forward
- Let's consider how he explained it - here in Philippians chapter 3 - look with me beginning there at verse 12 - where Paul declared...

Phl 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Phl 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

Phl 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Phl 3:15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

- Rather than allowing his past to stop him from moving forward in the Christian faith...
- ...Paul realized that - the calling of the Lord Jesus wasn't based on his station in life.
- No - instead - the calling of Christ is based on the unearned - and unmerited grace of God.
- That being the case - those who have received the call of Christ Jesus - stop focusing on the past - - and instead...
- ...we should move forward in faith - as we press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because - listen...
 1. ...while it's true that Christ didn't call us because of our Station in life...
 2. ...it's also true that Christ didn't call us because of our Sanctity
 - With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 7...
 - ...where we find Paul - elaborating on the clarion call of Christ Jesus.
 - Let's pick up our study - beginning there at verse 18 - where Paul asked...

IV. Sanctity

● Text

1Co 7:18 Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised.

1Co 7:19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.

1Co 7:20 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.

- Circumcision
- Here in these verses - we find Paul - continuing to help his audience understand that...
- ...the clarion call of Christ Jesus is extended to those of the Circumcision - as well as those who were Uncircumcised.
- Just to be clear - Circumcision is a religious rite - which was introduced - as a sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham.
- With this as our focus - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Genesis chapter 17.
- You see - it's here in the 17th chapter of Genesis - where we find the Lord - helping Abraham to understand that...
- ...the command to circumcise their sons - was actually a physical sign...
- ...that the descendants of Abraham - had in fact embraced the Abrahamic covenant.
- Covenant
- With this as our focus - let's consider Moses' account of this command that the Lord presented to Abraham.
- Look with me - there at Genesis chapter 17 - beginning there at verse 10 - where the Lord declared...

Gen 17:10 “This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;

Gen 17:11 “and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

Gen 17:12 “He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.

Gen 17:13 “He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Gen 17:14 “And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord - presenting Abraham with this command - regarding the religious rite of circumcision.
- And according to the Lord - the male children who were uncircumcised were cut off from the Abrahamic covenant.
- And listen - this was not only true of those who were living in the days of Abraham...
- ...but - this requirement was presented again to Moses - in Leviticus chapter 12.
- What this means is that - the sign of the Abrahamic covenant was applied to the Children of Israel...
- ...who were also expected to circumcise the flesh of their sons foreskin - on the eighth day.
- Uncircumcised
- With all of this in mind - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 7 - so that we can consider Paul's point.
- Look with me again - there at verse 18 - where Paul asked...

1Co 7:18 Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised.

- Here in this verses - we can see that the sign of the Abrahamic covenant is not necessary for salvation.
- And while it's true that the sign of circumcision is an everlasting covenant for the sons of Abraham - Isaac - and Jacob...
- ...it's also true that the clarion call of Christ - by which we enter into the New Covenant...
- ...has not only been extended to the circumcised Jews - but also to the uncircumcised Gentiles.
- That being the case - Paul assured them that there was no reason to think that one - was better than the other.
- Law
- In order to explain my point - we should consider the explanatory statement that Paul presented to the Christians in Ephesus.
- And so - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians 7 - and let's turn in our Bibles to Ephesians chapter 2.
- And as we make our way to the 2nd chapter of Ephesians - I wanna take a moment to point out that...
- ...the Jews were raised to believe that the uncircumcised Gentiles were unclean.
- It's for this reason that the religious rulers of Israel required every Gentile convert to be circumcised.
- And while there is no explicit commandment in the Torah requiring the circumcision of Gentile converts...

- ...this was a requirement according to the oral law of ancient Judaism.
- Sanctity?
 - With that being the case - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that - there was a group of Jews - there in the first century...
 - ...who were trying to convince the Gentile Christians - that they needed to be circumcised - in order to be sanctified.
 - In other words - this group of Jews - who came to be known as the judaizers - were insisting that...
 - ...the sanctity of Gentile Christians won't be fully achieved - until the males are circumcised...
 - ...AND then - both male and female Gentiles were required to receive a ceremonial immersion.
 - And what this means is that - the Judaizers were preaching a false gospel...
 - ...by encouraging a mixture of faith - and works - as a means of salvation.

- Saved

- It's for this reason that Paul assured the Gentile Christians - that we are saved by faith - and not by works.
- Let's consider how he explained it - here in Ephesians chapter 2 - look with me - beginning there at verse 8 - where he declared...

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
 Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Eph 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

Eph 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that we're saved by grace through faith - and not by the works of the law.
- And yeah - this includes the work of circumcision - which was required under the Mosaic law.
- What this means is that - the clarion call of Christ has been extended to those of the circumcision...
- ...as well as those who are called Uncircumcision - by those are called the Circumcision.
- And the reason why is because - the calling of Christ isn't based on our personal sanctity.
- Commandments
- In order to further prove my point - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 7 so that we can continue to consider what Paul was saying.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 19 - where Paul declared...

1Co 7:19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.

1Co 7:20 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.

- Now - a surface level reading of these verses could cause us to think that we must keep the commandments - in order to be saved.
- And yet - we know that Paul wasn't referring to the way that a person is saved.
- No - instead - he was encouraging the born-again believers in Corinth to realize that...
 - ...the evidence of our Christian conversion has nothing to do with circumcision.
 - No - instead - the evidence of our Christian conversion is found in a desire - to walk in obedience with Jesus Christ.
- Love?
 - I like the way that the Lord Jesus explained it - in John chapter 14 - it's verse 15 where He declared...

Jhn 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.
 - Those who truly love the Lord Jesus - will want to walk in obedience - according to His commandments.
 - And what this means is that - keeping the commandments of Christ isn't the way we get saved...
 - ...NO - instead - we will want to keep His commandments - because we've been saved - by grace - through faith.
 - And with that being the case - Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to realize that...
 - ...we should remain in the same calling in which we were called - regardless of whether we were circumcised - or uncircumcised.
- Paul

- I like the way that Paul explained it - in Philippians chapter 3 - it's beginning at verse 2 - where he declared...

Phl 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

Phl 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

Phl 3:4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

Phl 3:5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

Phl 3:6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Phl 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Phl 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Phl 3:9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith

- From this - we can see that - being circumcised doesn't make a man - automatically obedient to the Lord.
- Paul was a Jew - who was circumcised on the eighth day - according to the law...
- ...and yet - before his conversion to Christ - he was also a blasphemer - a persecutor of Christians - and an prideful man.
- But then - after hearing the clarion call of Christ - - Paul realized that his personal righteousness was rubbish.
- It's for this reason that he insisted that the circumcised and the uncircumcised - are both guilty of breaking the commandments.

● Application

- Sinners
- Thankfully for us - the clarion call of Christ has been extended to sinners of every stripe.
- Let's consider how Jesus explained this to a group of Pharisees - in Mark chapter 2 - it's verse 17 - where He declared...

Mar 2:17 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

- From this - we can see that Christ Jesus didn't call us - because we've kept His commandments.
- And He didn't call us - because - we received the sign of circumcision - or because our sanctity exceeds our sinfulness.
- No - instead - Christ Jesus came to call sinners to repentance - and the reason why is because...
 - ...He is a gracious Savior - Who loves us with a sacrificial love.
 - Therefore - He calls those who are circumcised - as well as those who are uncircumcised.

● Transition

- Points
 - Now - this brings us to our third point - because - listen...
 1. ...Christ didn't call us because of our individual Station in life...
 2. ...nor did Christ call us because of our Personal Sanctity.
 3. ...finally - Christ didn't call us because of our social Status.
 - With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 7...

- ...where we find Paul - elaborating on the clarion call of Christ Jesus.
- Let's pick up our study - beginning there at verse 21 - where Paul asked...

V. Status

● Text

1Co 7:21 Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.

1Co 7:22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave.

1Co 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

1Co 7:24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

- Slave
- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...the clarion call of Christ isn't based on some sort of social status or carnal class system.
- And what this means is that - the Lord Jesus calls those who are rich - - and he calls those who are poor.
- Not only that - but - as we consider the great commission of Christ Jesus...
- ...we can rejoice in knowing that - the Lord is calling people from every tribe - tongue - and nation.
- And according to Paul - this is true of those who are free - - and those who are slaves.
- Controversy

- Now - as we consider the point that Paul was making - you might be interested to know that...
- ...there are many who insist that Paul was pro-slavery - because of passages like this one.
- Not only that - but there are also those who argue that the Bible is a book that condones slavery.
- For example - one critic of the Bible presented his argument in this way...
 - “One could say that the Bible is clear on this: the institution of slavery is permitted by God, endorsed by God, and owning slaves can even be a sign of God’s blessing.”
 - As we consider this assessment of the scriptures - we should take a moment to ask...
 - ...did God endorse chattel slavery - - and was Paul presenting a case for slavery?
- Slavery
 - In order to answer these questions - I should first take a moment to point out that slavery was clearly an issue - during the days of Paul.
 - I should also point out that slavery has existed at some point in time - in every corner of the world - throughout the entirety of human history.
 - Semites enslaved Semites - Asians enslaved Asians - Africans enslaved Africans - and White Europeans enslaved White Europeans.
 - It was during the 7th century AD - when Arab Muslims began to forcibly removed millions of Africans from their homeland...
 - ...resulting in the TransSaharan slave trade - which set the stage for the Transatlantic slave trade.

- To sum it up with simplicity - - slavery has stained the history of the human race - ever since the 7th millennium BC...
- ...when slavery was first institutionalized in ancient Mesopotamia.
- Types
 - I should also point out that - there were different types of slavery throughout human history.
 - This included the temporary slavery - better known as indentured servitude.
 - These servants were those who sold themselves into slavery - in order to work off a debt they couldn't pay.
 - And then there's chattel slavery - in which a person and their offspring becomes the property of their master.
 - These slaves were typically the survivors of a war - - or the offspring of those who were already enslaved.
 - And while it's true that the Bible provides regulations for how these slaves should be treated...
 - ...it's also true that the Lord prohibited the practice of kidnapping people - for the purpose of enslaving them.
- Man-stealer
 - Let's consider how Moses put it - in Exodus chapter 21 - it's verse 16 - where we learn that...

Exo 21:16 "He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death.
 - According to the Lord - those who kidnap others - and sell them into slavery - are deserving of the death penalty.

- What this means is that - those who captured people - and sold them into slavery - were sinning against the Lord.
- Paul confirmed this in 1st Timothy chapter 1 - - it's verse 10 - where he informed us that...
 - ...those who engage in this sort of slave trade - are committing a sin that is contrary to sound doctrine.
 - What this means is that - Paul was in no way condoning chattel slavery.

- IF

- With this as our focus - let's take another look at verse 21 - where he asked...

1Co 7:21 Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - encouraging those who were slaves - to take advantage of any opportunity to change their social status.
- And while it's true that Paul believed that the slaves who were able to gain their freedom - should....
 - ...it's also true that Paul was writing this letter to Christians who were living in Corinth - and Corinth was under Roman rule.
 - And according to Roman Law - a runaway slave could be punished and even killed - for disobeying the law.
 - Therefore - Paul would've been wrong to encourage them to risk their lives - by breaking Roman law.
- Freed
 - At the same time - Paul also helped them to realize that - those who answer the clarion call of Christ - are truly free indeed.

- Let's consider how he put it - there in verse 22 - where Paul declared...

1Co 7:22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave.

- According to Paul - the clarion call of Christ has nothing to do with our social status.
- And to the contrary - the slaves who answer the clarion call of Christ are set free from the condemnation of the Law.
- At the same time - those who free - become the slaves of Jesus - according to our calling in Christ.
- And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to realize that we don't really need to worry our our social status.
- Become

- Let's consider how Paul put it - there in verse 23 - where he declared...

1Co 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

1Co 7:24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - encouraging the believers who were free - to avoid becoming slaves of men.
- And in order to understand this command - it'll help us to know that the freeborn Romans who were in debt over their heads...
- ...were able to sell themselves into slavery - in order to pay off their debt.
- That being the case - it seems to me that Paul was challenging the Christians in Corinth to avoid accumulating the sort of debt...
- ...that could cause them to sell themselves into slavery.

- Debt

- In similar fashion - we too should avoid the sort of debt accumulation - that could cause us to become the indentured servants of Visa.
- At this point in time - U.S. credit card debt reached a record \$1.23 trillion dollars.
- The average American household currently holds around nine thousand dollars in credit card debt.
- And it's sad to say that many in the church today use credit cards - to spend money they don't have - on things they don't need...
- ...and the reason why is because - they aren't content with their financial status.
- Rather than living according to their means - they accumulate debt - as they purchase the appearance of wealth...
- ...while simultaneously becoming the slaves of credit card companies.

- Become

- If this sounds like your life - then - I encourage you to embrace the counsel that Paul presented there in verse 24 - where he declared...

1Co 7:24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

- In other words - Paul was calling Christians to be content with their social status...
- ...and the reason why is because - our status in society is not the basis for our calling in Christ.

- I often hear Christians talking about how God could use this person - because of their fame - - or - that person - because of their fortune.
- As a matter of fact - God can use anyone who will simply answer the clarion call of Christ.
- And listen - this is not only true of those who are rich and famous - but this is also true of those who are poor and unknown.

● Application

• Worthy

- With that being the case - I encourage every believer to accomplish their calling in Christ.
- I like the way that Paul put it - in 1st Thessalonians chapter 2 - it's verse 12 where he prayed....

1Th 2:12 ...that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

- Those who have answered the clarion call of Christ - - should also walk worthy of this calling.
- And while it's true that we answer this call - by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...
- ...it's also true that those who truly trust in Jesus - will want to walk worthy of the God who called us into His own kingdom and glory.
- With this as the goal - let's stop spending so much of our time - and energy - worrying about our social status...
- ...and instead - let's walk in the power of the Holy Spirit - so that we can accomplish our calling in Christ.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - we can rejoice in knowing that...

1. ...Christ didn't call us because of our Station in life...

- No - instead - He calls each person to trust in Him - regardless of our sinful past.

2. ...not only that - but - Christ didn't call us because of our religious Sanctity.

- No - instead - He came to call sinners to repent - so that we might be sanctified by faith in the cross of Christ.

3. ...and finally - Christ didn't call us because of our Social Status.

- No - instead - He calls people from every tribe - tongue and nation to trust in Him.
- He calls those who are rich and those who are poor - - He calls those who are free and those who are enslaved.
- That being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that our Savior has extended this invitation to every person...
- ...so that we might hear - and receive the clarion call of Christ.