

Calling



The concept of calling is central to the Christian faith. The idea that the Creator of the universe considers us as central to fulfilling His purposes is as amazing as the universe itself. Whether or not you know what your calling is, your time here at Regent is part of your journey. What is your calling, and how will your Regent degree help you fulfill it?

Calling Defined

According to Dik & Duffy in *Calling and Vocation at Work*, calling has three primary dimensions. First, one's calling is external in nature, meaning that your purpose in life originates outside of you, not inside of you. Hugh Whelchel puts it this way in his book *How then Should We Work*: "The definition [of calling] suggests that a person listens for something which calls out to him. The calling is something which comes to someone and is particular to someone." For the Christian, this external source is God. The second dimension of calling indicates that a sense of meaning and satisfaction is derived from pursuing one's calling. Third and finally, one's calling is others-oriented. Instead of drawing attention to one's own desires, one's calling will focus on the welfare of others.

Discovering My Personal Calling

How does one determine their personal calling or purpose? In some cases, people know what they should be doing very early in life. In other cases, it can take years for their journey to arrive at a place of certainty. In either case, your primary calling is to follow Jesus. This may sound obvious, but it is essential in order to discern and pursue your secondary vocational calling. According to Whelchel, "Vocational calling is the call to God and to His service in the vocational sphere of life based on giftedness, desires, affirmations, and human need."

Some students feel called to pursue a certain degree at Regent University, or to enter a specific career field after they graduate, while other students are earlier in their journey toward discovering their calling. Either way is completely normal. In many cases, discerning a personal calling or purpose takes time and intentional exploration.

In exploring your calling, consider carefully the following:

- **Prayer** – While obvious, many people overlook the power of prayer
- **Your design** – The Lord designed you with a purpose in mind ([Ps. 139:13-16](#)). Examine what makes you tick – the way your mind works, your strengths, weaknesses, interests, and aptitudes. Consider taking a [career assessment](#).
- **Your story** – God does not waste anything. He will use your unique story to influence others for His kingdom. Reflect upon your life themes. Consider recurring situations when you felt most aligned with His will.
- **Your dreams** – In the quiet times with you and the Lord, what do you dream about? What is that "big dream" that you would pursue in service to Him if all things were possible?
- **Respected others** – Consult with the people who know you well – family, pastors, mentors, and friends.

In the end, trust that He will establish your steps ([Proverbs 16:9](#)) and know that you are called according to His purpose and He will work all things for your good ([Romans 8:28](#)).

Recommended Reading: "Just Do Something" by Kevin DeYoung and "How then Should we Work" by Hugh Whelchel