

Called

“Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called the sons of God”

1 John 3:1

Called—The Greek is *klethomen*. This verb is plural and in the aorist tense. That indicates an action completed in the past. The root verb is *kaleo*. It has a very wide range of meanings including “invite, accuse, bring, provoke, summon.” But the most interesting connection in this verse is that the word which we translate “church” in English is also related to this word (the Greek is *ekklesia* the “called out ones”). Notice that John places the emphasis on God’s action, not ours. He says, “Look at how much God loves us. God loves us so much that He shows His love by calling us his children.” None of this is based on anything that we did. Not once does John say, “Look at the way God treats us because we have followed Him” or “Isn’t it wonderful to know that God calls us His children because we love Him.” No, not at all. It is only about what God did for us.

The “church” is nothing more (or less) than those who have been called by God. It is not the Catholics or the Baptists or the Pentecostals or the Methodists. The church is the assembly of all those “called.” God decides who is in the church and what he decides is this: anyone He calls belongs in His assembly.

Do you sometimes wonder how disappointed God must be with the animosity and disharmony we show toward our own brothers and sisters in His assembly? Doesn’t it grieve your heart to see the fighting and bickering? It is certainly not what Jesus wanted when he prayed “that they may be one as You and I are one.” Maybe we should be asking ourselves how God’s intention for unity is being lived out in our own lives. Are we embracing all of His “called” with the same spirit of joy and support? Or are we selective, calling out another group from God’s choice. How much better to let Him do the calling.

“God, forgive my isolation and intentional separation from all of my family called by You. Show me how to follow Your will for me instead of telling someone else how to follow Your will for them.”