

## II. Calling (Vocation)

Chapter 10 of the *Westminster confession of Faith* is entitled "Of Effectual Calling". This brief chapter reads as follows:

I. All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by his Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and lovingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by his almighty power, determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ: yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace.

II. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in It.

III. Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated, and saved by Christ, through the Spirit, who worketh when, and where, and how he pleaseth; so also are all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.

IV. Others, not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never truly come unto Christ; and therefore cannot be saved; much less can men, not professing the Christian religion, be saved in any other way whatsoever, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, and the laws of that religion they do profess. And, to assert and maintain that they may, is very pernicious, and to be detested.

The Westminster Confession distinguishes between being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word, and being effectually called by the Word of the Spirit. Accordingly, we divide our treatment of calling into external and internal calling.

### A. External Calling

External calling is that gracious act of God whereby He invites sinners to accept the salvation that is offered in Jesus Christ.

It contains three elements:

- (1) a presentation of the gospel facts and truths
- (2) an invitation to repent and trust in Jesus Christ
- (3) a promise of forgiveness and eternal life

It has at least four characteristics:

1. It is universal