

CHURCH: Shared Ministry
Jonathan Cleveland
John 13:34-35; Ephesians 2:6-10 & 4:11-16
August 30, 2026

Reflection & Discussion

The calling of our life is to embody a command to love like Jesus

Read and discuss John 13:34-35 (NIV)

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

*What is significant about this passage and our calling?

*Where does this command rank on your list of things about what it means to follow Jesus?

*How has this command been brought to life through God’s people and church?

Jesus saves us TO enlist us in something

Read and discuss Ephesians 2:6-10 (NIV)

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*How do these verses relate to our calling?

*What does ‘advance’ seem to mean in verse 10?

*Does the idea of loving others with a calling and purpose that predates you excite or energize you? What perspective could it bring to your life?

Paul hits us with the bottom line about why church exists

Read and discuss Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

*What does this passage say about our forming?

*How is the church involved with that? What is the point of church?

Church is about finding our God-given calling

Being equipped and formed so we can love in tangible ways like Jesus does.

*How are you embracing your calling to live a life of love? What unique ways do you sense you are called to love others?

*How are you taking care of your soul in a way that honors the importance of your calling?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about your calling and how that might intersect with the church?

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