

## Romans 8:29-30 Effectual Calling

**As a work of His almighty grace God redefines our lives as His sons by His Word and Spirit.**

### 1. God's call is a work of His almighty grace.

- a. 2 Uses of "Call"
  - i. General/External Call in the Proclamation of the Gospel
  - ii. Effectual/Internal Call of the Spirit working with the Gospel
- b. Romans 4:17 use of Genesis 17
  - i. Renaming Abram
  - ii. Word of Promise
- c. Foreknew and Predestined in eternity; Called in history

### 2. God's call redefines our lives as His sons.

- a. "Called" draws on OT sense of God's naming and defining something in relation to Himself and His purpose;
- b. Romans 1:1 "called apostle"; Romans 1:7 "called saints"
- c. Romans 8:29 predestination is for conformity to His Son; not just a moral transformation, but a relational transformation; calling is the execution of the eternal decree
- d. Rom 9:25-26 "there they will be *called* sons of the living God" (cf. Hos. 1:6-2:1; 11:23; Greek text )

### 3. God's call is by His Word and Spirit.

- a. Rom 8:1-27 flesh-life vs. Spirit-life
- b. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 "He called you through our gospel"
- c. Acts 16:14 "The Lord *opened her heart* [effectual call] to pay attention to *what was said* by Paul [general call]."
- d. Acts 13:44-48

### 4. Therefore . . .

- a. Boast in God's grace.
- b. Be humble.
- c. Proclaim the gospel.

For further study: OT *miqrā' qōdēš*, holy assembly, the worshipping community, literally the called saints or convocation of saints (Exod. 12:16; Num. 28:25; Lev. 23:2-37 11X); cf. *ekklēsia* and *synagogue*; cf. Rom 1:7 *klētois hagiois*, (called saints) a very literal rendering of the Hebrew; the root of the Greek word translated "church" is the same as the Greek word translated "call" (*kal* which morphs to *kles*); "church" has a prepositional prefix (*ek-*) added to the root for "call" which usually means "out of," but when attached to "call" is used like "con"=together; thus *ekklēsia* is very similar to the English word convocation