

Introduction to the Doctrine of Vocation

CPC Adult Sunday School

Week 1 - Preliminary Considerations: Who We Are

February 2, 2025

Historical Context

- When you think of the term “vocation,” what comes to mind?
- *For when you mention and pray for daily bread, you pray for everything that is necessary in order to have and enjoy daily bread and, on the other hand, against everything which interferes with it. Therefore you must open wide and extend your thoughts not only to the oven or the flour-bin but to the distant field and the entire land, which bears and brings to us daily bread and every sort of sustenance. Martin Luther*
- *Finally, this point is to be noted: the Lord bids each one of us in all life’s actions to look to his calling... each man will bear and swallow the discomforts, vexations, weariness, and anxieties in his way of life, when he has been persuaded that the burden was laid upon him by God. From this will arise also a singular consolation: that no task will be so sordid and base, provided you obey your calling in it, that it will not shine and be reckoned very precious in God’s sight. John Calvin*
- *Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. 1 Corinthians 7:17*

A Quick Acknowledgement

- David Bahnsen - *Full Time: Work and the Meaning of Life*
- Mary Beeke - *Teach Them to Work: Building a Positive Work Ethic in Our Children*
- John Calvin - *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
- Brandon Crowe - *Everyday Matters: A Biblical Approach to Productivity*
- Sinclair Ferguson - *Discovering God's Will*
- Steven Garber - *Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good*
- Timothy Keller with Katherine Alsdorf - *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*
- Meredith Kline - *Kingdom Prologue: Genesis Foundations for a Covenantal Worldview*
- Martin Luther - *Martin Luther's Large Catechism*
- Steven J. Nichols - *What is Vocation*
- Gene Edward Veith - *God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life*
- Johannes G. Vos - *The Westminster Larger Catechism: A Commentary*

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



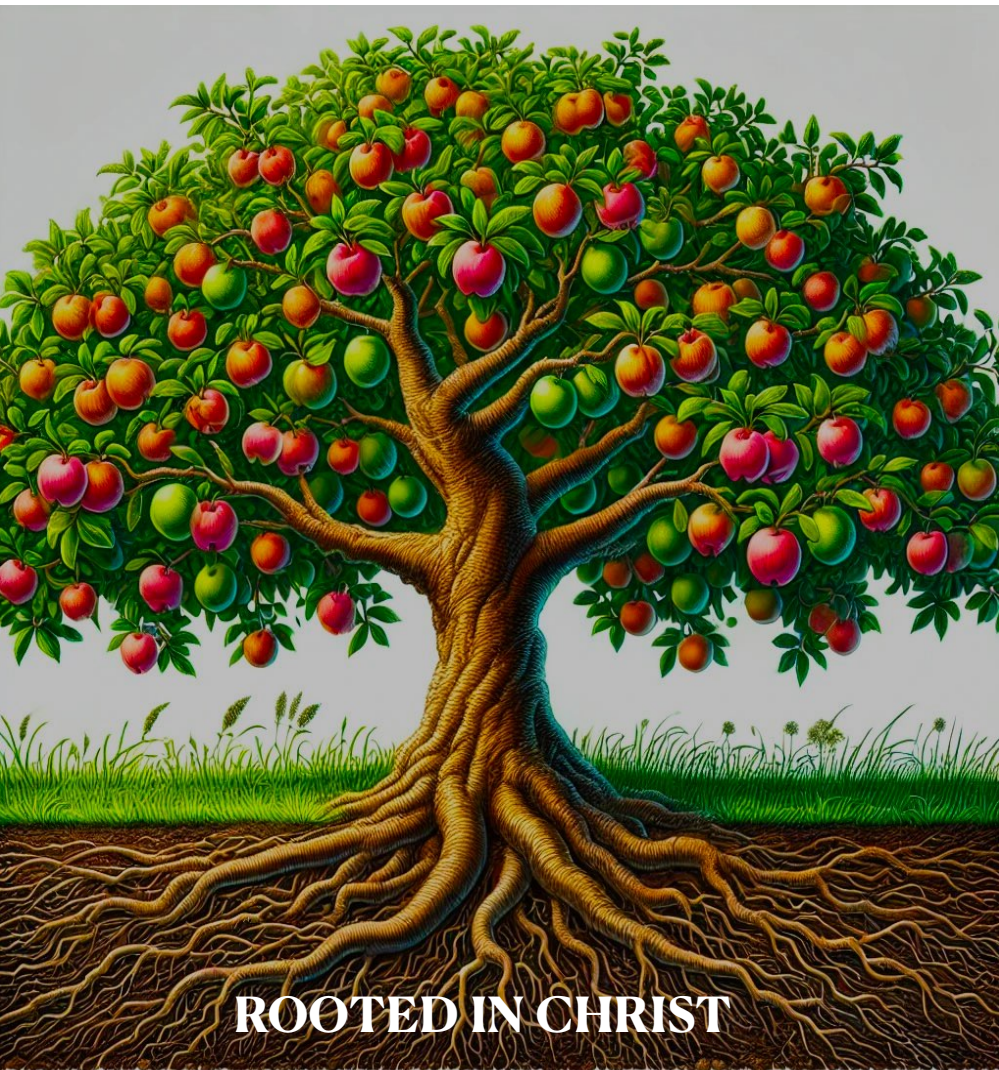
Who We Are

What does it mean that God has called you to Christ Presbyterian Church in Temecula?

Why study the Doctrine of Vocation?

Making the most of this study

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



ROOTED IN CHRIST

Rooted in Christ

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7

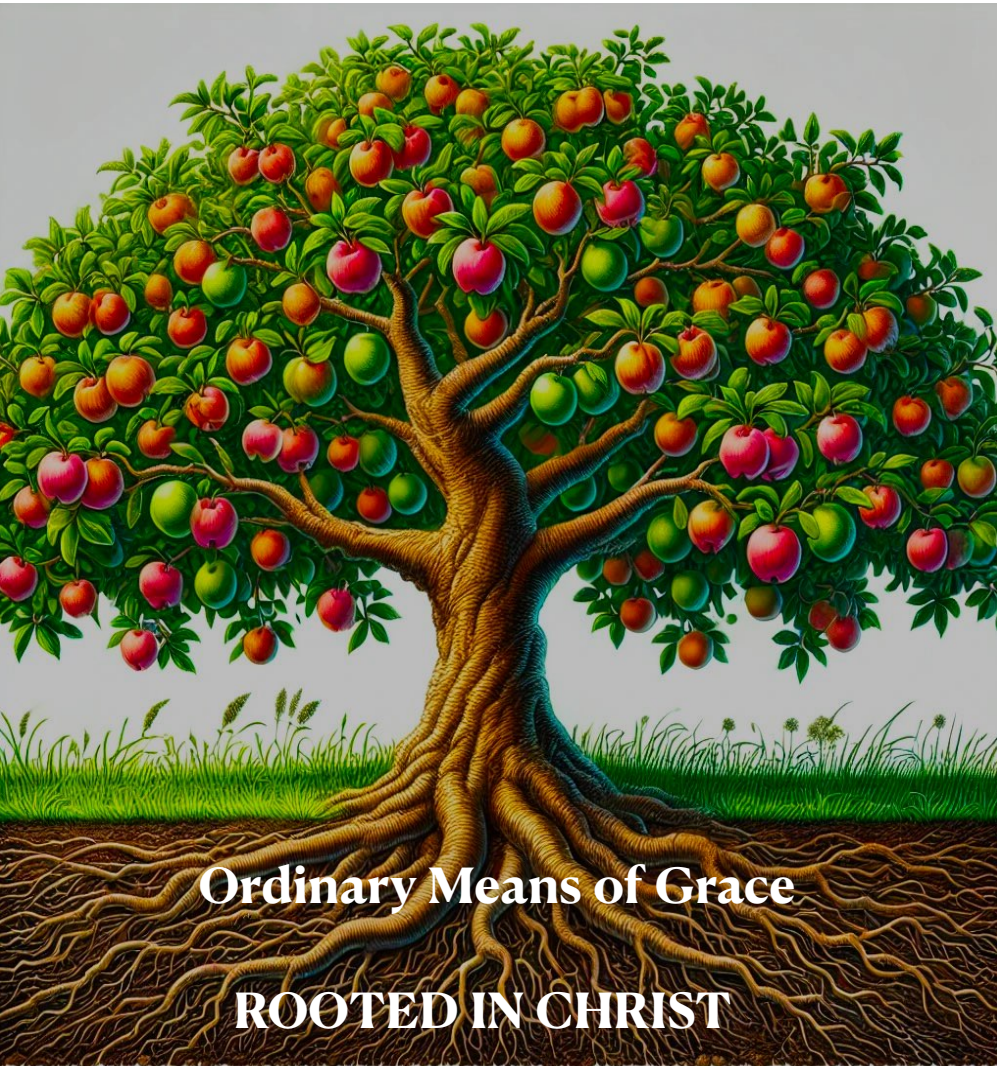
Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



Ordinary Means of Grace

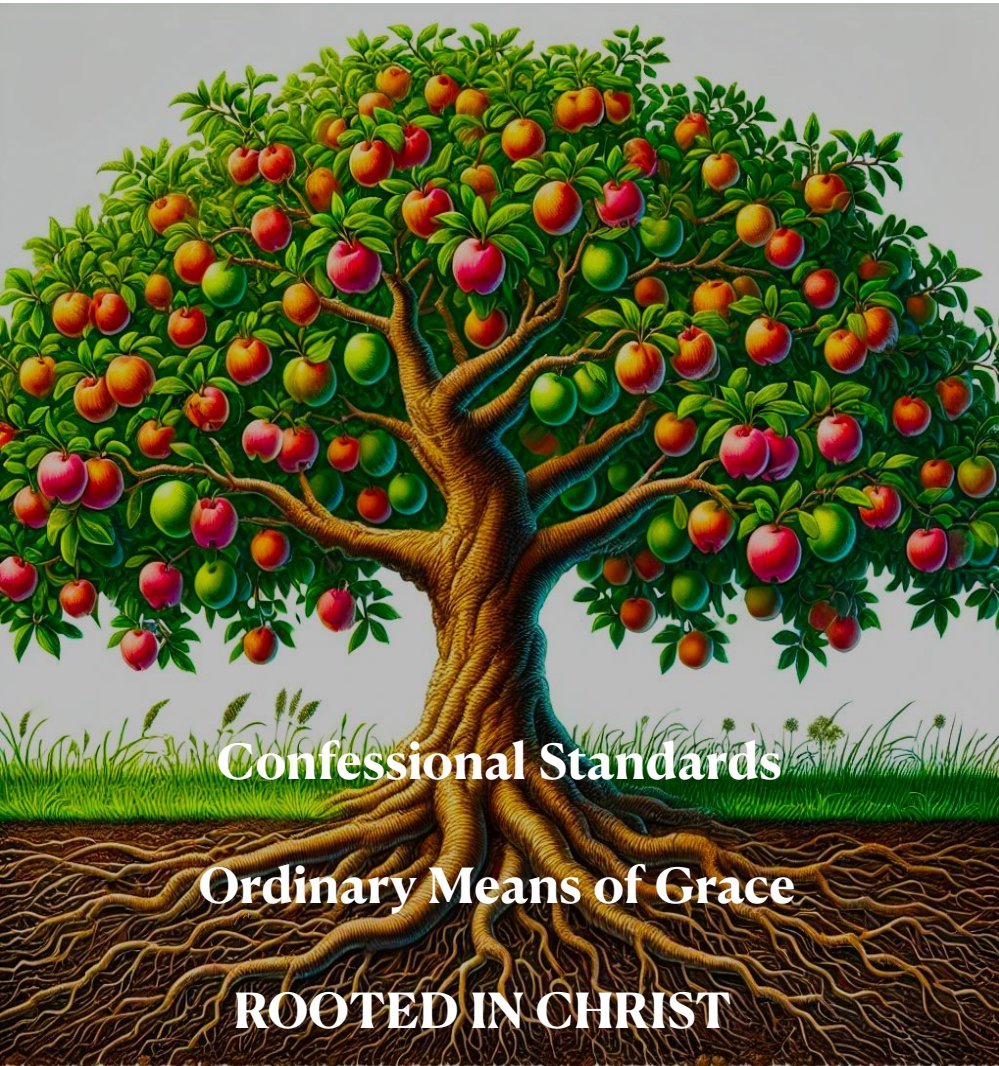
WLC Question 154

What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation?

The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation.

What is challenging about making use of the ordinary means of grace?

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



Confessional Standards

Ordinary Means of Grace

ROOTED IN CHRIST

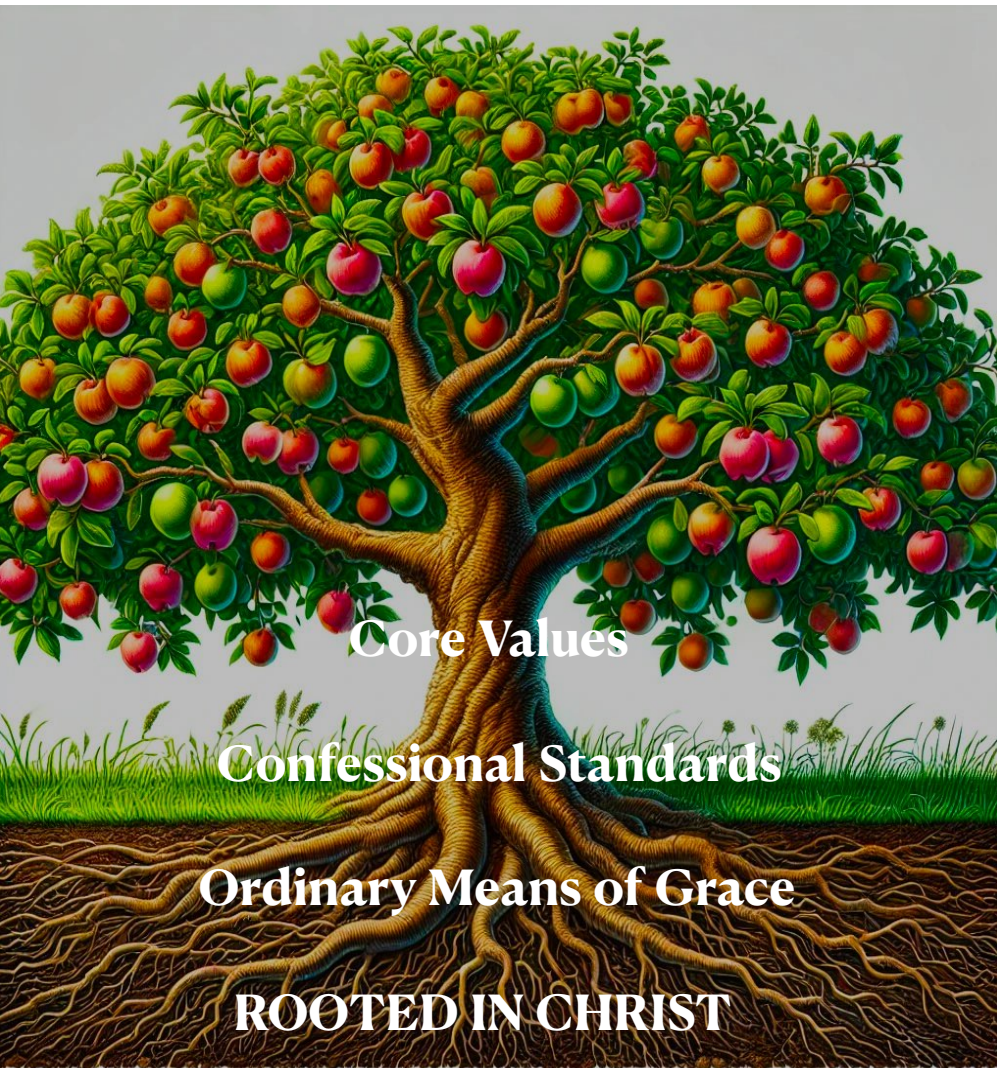
Confessional Standards

Westminster Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger & Shorter Catechisms

PCA Book of Church Order

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



Core Values

What is the gospel?

Gospel Transformation

Gospel Community

Gospel-shaped Diversity

Gospel Shepherding

Gospel Mission (Temecula Valley and Beyond)

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



Church Vows

Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



Discipleship

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

What are some of the things involved in discipleship?

What are the benefits of discipleship?

What are the costs of discipleship?

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



Fellowship

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42

What has God given you to share with the Body at CPC?

What are the benefits of fellowship?

What are the risks of fellowship?

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



Vocations

God is providentially at work, bearing fruit for His glory, by means of your work (labors) and rest in...

Church

Family

Society

PLANTED IN TEMECULA



Digging Deeper

Why is the doctrine of vocation relevant for people of all ages?

What gifts/skills has God given you? What are you passionate about? How might you use these to serve others in your various vocations? Who can help you figure it out?

How do you hope to grow through this Sunday School class?

Who can help you grow in the use of the means of grace?

Who can you help grow in the use of the means of grace?