LEADING TRANSFORMATION #19:  
TWO TYPES OF CALLING (PART 1)

Calling is both GENERAL and PARTICULAR. That is, we all have a common responsibility to serve our fellow men and women; and additionally, we each have our unique roles to fulfill with our lives. It is in knowing and living out our GENERAL CALLING that we are able to identify our PARTICULAR CALLING.

GENERAL CALLING  
General Calling has to do with what we are ALL called to be and do as normal humans.

In the same sense in which it is easier to direct a moving vehicle, it is easier for a person who is intentionally and actively living out the General Calling to discover his or her Particular Calling.

1. LOVE GOD   
The first General Calling is to love God. God is kind, just, right, forgiving, gracious, compassionate, merciful, humble, patient, faithful, etc. God liberates, empowers, transforms, etc. God is on the side of truth, justice and freedom. To love God means to seek to be like Him in your thoughts, words and actions.

2. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF.

GOLDEN RULE: Do to others as would have them do to you.

All humans under normal circumstances know what is best for them. The Golden Rule calls for sensitivity in our relationships and transactions with others. We should always ask ourselves: What would I have desired for myself in this situation? What would it take for me to offer exactly that to others in this situation?

The degree to which we are unwilling to apply the Golden Rule in situations is the measure of our selfishness.

3. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

PLATINUM RULE: Love your enemies.

This calls for desiring and working toward what is best for one's enemies. This does not mean unwisely investing resources in people who are wasteful or have evil intentions. It does however mean that we truly desire what is best for our enemies and seek to help them align their lives with what would be best for them as much as it depends on us, and they on their part are willing to cooperate. The natural and general tendency is to wish the worst for our enemies. We wish for them to experience the full weight of the consequences of their actions; including the pain and suffering that will make it clear to them that they acted wrongly, particularly in relation to us.

4. BE GOOD STEWARDS   
Stewardship is about exercising good leadership and management of people and the rest of creation. It touches on how respectful and careful we are in relating to others; seeking to help them realize, experience and express their God-given potential for the benefit of the rest of humanity. It also includes intentionally preserving creation; seeking to release the beauty of every creature as they serve their unique God-intended purpose. Stewardship includes the creative addition of value to natural resources so that they can bring the maximum possible enrichment to the lives of humans.

Living our lives toward fulfilling our General Calling best positions us for discovering our PARTICULAR CALLINGS.