

4/12/26

Series: Godly Ambition

Title: Is Ambition Good or Bad?

Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4, Romans 15:20-21

Getting to know you Questions:

What's one of the more ambitious things you've ever attempted?

What's your go-to "coping mechanism" when your ambition crashes and burns — binge-watching shows, doom-scrolling, pretending you're "strategically resting," etc....?

Into the Bible Questions:

Read Philippians 2:3-4

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "ambition"? Has your view of it been mostly positive, negative, or mixed—and why?

2. The sermon mentions "frustrated ambition" leading to coping mechanisms like victim mentality, passivity, or retreating to video games/virtual worlds. Which of these (or others) have you seen in yourself or others, especially among younger men?

3. Why do you think some Christians view any ambition (in business, family, spiritual growth, or even goals for God) as potentially selfish or wrong? - Where does that idea come from?

Read Romans 12:11

4. The sermon calls Lie #2: "Apathy is Godly." How do we sometimes use "humility" or "staying humble" as an excuse for apathy, playing it safe, or settling for less than our God-given potential? What does the passage call us to?

5. Share a time when godly ambition pushed you (or someone you know) to the limit. Was it worth it? Why or why not?

6. Read 1 Samuel 15:22 - The sermon warns that making ambition everything can lead to sacrificing obedience. How have you seen (or experienced) ambition causing someone to neglect family, obedience, or other commands from God?

7. Reflect on Jesus' ambition for the cross. How does trusting His finished work give you security and purpose to pursue godly ambition without fear of ultimate failure?

8. The sermon notes that older generations can cheerlead younger ones in godly ambition, and God isn't done with anyone until death. How can this series encourage people across age groups?

Application Questions:

1. What dreams or goals is God stirring in your heart right now? If none feel clear, where is one small way you can obey Him today?
2. Identify one area of “frustrated ambition” in your life (dormant gifts, fear of failure, virtual escapes). What small step could you take this week to move toward godly ambition instead?
3. Examine your motivations: Is there any ambition (work, family, ministry, personal growth) that might lean toward “selfish ambition” without moral constraints? How can you realign it?
4. Where have you used “humility” or “playing it safe” as a cover for apathy? What would fervent service to the Lord (Romans 12:11) look like in that area?
5. Think of a season where godly ambition might require running “like a gazelle” (intense effort for debt, family, ministry, etc.). Are you in such a season now—or avoiding one?
6. How can you better prioritize others’ interests (Philippians 2:3-4) without killing healthy ambition for your own responsibilities?
7. In what ways might your ambitions (even good ones) risk superseding obedience to God? Ask someone close (spouse, friend) for honest feedback.
8. This week, make it your ambition to please God in one specific, practical way (2 Corinthians 5:9). What will that look like?
9. How can you be ambitious to live quietly, work with your hands, and provide for your needs/family (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12) while still pursuing bigger gospel goals?
10. Who in your life (younger generation, friend, family member) needs cheerleading in godly ambition? How will you encourage them this week?
11. Set one measurable goal for growing in godly ambition this week (e.g., a new habit, conversation, or act of service). Share it with the group for accountability next time.