

Week Seventeen

Competition For Priorities

Wrongly directed ambition is another competitor for time that should be spent with a spouse and children. Consider Solomon, who wrote in Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 (ESV):

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy visit.

This is a vivid example of ambition gone awry. Solomon had everything and yet, he had nothing.

Here is the key: ambition of the sort that drove Solomon involved winning out *over* others. Commitment is about walking *with* others. Wrongly directed ambition has no sincere regard for the needs of others.

Ambition whispers in your ear, "They'll wait for you while you achieve your goals. They'll understand!" But maybe they *won't* wait.

So, the question that must be asked is this: "For whom are you toiling?"

Questions? Talk to me before or after services on Sunday or call the church office.

Next week: Maybe the grass is greener...