

Rescuing Ambition

A Summary of Chapter 4 (Ambition's Agenda) with Discussion Questions

Main Idea: We are declared righteous because of the obedience of Christ on the cross. Why do anything else? Why be ambitious for anything if we already have the ultimate thing?

We tend to evaluate who we are by what we achieve.

- What's on your already-been-done list that defines success for your life so far?
- What's on your to-do list that defines success for this week? For the rest of your life?

But we should evaluate who we are by how we achieve.

- God does not care what you do, if he is not pleased with who you are. Agree?

We are commanded to walk in a manner consistent with our call (Eph 4:1), to become what God has declared us to be:

- Adopted sons who are holy and blameless (1:4-5)
- Redeemed and forgiven (1:7)
- Assigned to be God's inheritance (1:11)
- Sealed with the Spirit of promise (1:13)
- Made alive together with Christ (2:5)
- Raised together with Christ (2:6)
- Seated together with Christ (2:6)
- Fellow citizens with the holy ones (2:19)
- Members of God's family (2:19)
- Part of the holy temple where God dwells (2:20-22)
- Joint heirs (3:6)
- Members of the same body (3:6)
- Partners of the promise in Christ (3:6)

Instead of being ambitious for my glory or comfort, I'm to be ambitious for a changed life.

- I understand what it looks like to be ambitious for my glory or comfort.
- What does it look like to be ambitious for:
 - Humility and gentleness?
 - Patience?
 - Bearing with one another in love?
 - Making every effort to maintain unity?

God can make us Christlike as we pursue our dreams.

- Share one of your dreams. How can you become like Christ while pursuing that dream?

God shapes by dealing with our ambitions by

- Delaying them, which reveals what we really want. How does delay refine our ambitions?
- Developing them, helping us to use them for him. What skills do you have that can be used for God inside or outside of the church?
- Denying them, keeping us moving in the right direction and from making disastrous choices. Share a time when God denied your ambition, and you later learned it was for your own good.

The ultimate ambition is when God himself delights us.