

## Rescuing Ambition: A Summary of Chapter 9 (Ambitious for the Church) with Discussion Questions

Key: God's purpose for our ambition is connected to the local church, so our ambition must include meaningful participation in our local church, ODBC.

A "relational catastrophe" occurred at the fall in the garden.

- What were the relational effects?

The satisfaction of individual ambition is linked to our collective identity as the people of God (p 157)?

- Say what?

If our ambition is to align with Christ's, we must be ambitious for our local church.

- How is Christ ambitious for the local church? How should we be ambitious for the local church?

The church did not escape the tornado of individualism that swept through our world.

- How is this individualism manifested with regard to the local church?

Harvey offers brief pastoral advice for what to look for in a church:

1. What are the church's values and vision?
  2. How is the church pastored and governed?
  3. Is there true fellowship among the people?
  4. Does the gospel move the church toward those outside the church?
- Which of these at ODBC is most important to you?
  - This week, thank your pastors for pastoring you!
  - What does true fellowship look like?
  - How does the gospel move ODBC toward those outside ODBC?

A holy ambition for the church finds delight in building it.

- How do we build the church?

Harvey notes that people don't commit to churches anymore. Choice and need have replaced sacrifice and faithfulness.

- What does "choice and need" look like?
- In what areas does this tempt you? How do you overcome/resist your temptations?

When personal ambitions are frustrated in a church, we tend to depart or drift. But we need a heart posture that sees beyond the end of some tradition we hold dear, the departure of a fav leader, or the failure of OD to go a direction we think it should.

- How do we get to the point where we have this heart posture?
- What has to be valuable to us? What has to be not-so-valuable?

Harvey cites "my-church-is-for-my-ministry" as a reason some leave their church.

- Why do we tend to love my-ministry?
- How do we avoid viewing our ministry as too important?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. This passage commands us to cultivate other habits to fight the tendency to drift.

- What habits do we need to cultivate?

Conclusion: Our ambition should be higher than crossing the finish line alone.