

This is Love

Lay Down Your Ambition (Week 3)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Holy ambition leads to acts of love that bring God glory and fill us with peace and joy.

Key Scriptures

Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:18-20 ESV

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

Philippians 1:21-22 ESV

I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Philippians 1:23-26 ESV

I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named.

Romans 15:20 ESV

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Philippians 2:1-3 ESV

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:11-13 ESV

Selfish ambition creates glory-hungry, safety-conscious, comfort-seeking people who live for themselves.

Holy ambition leads to acts of love.

Hallmarks of Holy Ambition

1. Holy ambition produces humility before glory.
2. Holy ambition boldly risks it all rather than settling for safety.
3. Holy ambition sacrifices comfort and convenience for the sake of the call.
4. Holy ambition fills us with peace and joy.

Start talking.

- Pastor Ryan mentioned Christian t-shirts and WWJD bracelets from the 90s. What was your favorite (or least favorite) trend in Christianity over the past few decades?
- What's your favorite part about fall? Why?

Start thinking.

- Our world often looks down on ambition. Do you agree with Ryan on his view that ambition is a good thing? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to settle for a Christianity that's skin-deep? What does it look like? Why does it happen?
- Read Philippians 1:18-26. What stands out to you about Paul's mindset? What's one thing that wasn't mentioned in the message that you found really interesting?
- Ryan mentioned his wife, the church's leadership, and families that foster or adopt. Is there anyone else in the church or in Christianity whose holy ambition inspires you?

Start sharing.

- What is the hardest for you to sacrifice: glory, safety, or comfort? Why?
- Do you feel like you have holy ambition right now? Or is this a bit of a challenging season for you?
- How can the group pray for you this week?

Start doing.

- Will you commit to reading or listening to Philippians this week?
- What is the holy ambition God has called you to live for?